Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-227 *25 November 1994*

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Central American Ministers Plan for Miami Summit

PA2511034894 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Nov 94

[Report by Patricia Belloso; from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central American foreign ministers are meeting in San Salvador to prepare for the Summit of the Americas, which is scheduled to be held in Miami between 9-11 December, and to present a joint proposal on topics of regional interest, such as immigration and free trade agreements. The foreign ministers are discussing the agenda as a priority and have already agreed on a joint position for the hemispheric meeting to be held in Miami. They will present a petition that Central America not be excluded from free trade benefits and that assistance be given to strengthen sustainable development:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The only thing Central America requests is a fairer and more equitable treatment by the United States and other NAFTA members. Central America has lost Caribbean Basin Initiative benefits and privileges, and we want to recover them now. [end recording]

Another important topic on the agenda up for discussion is the position of Central American countries on the defense of immigrants in the United States. All the foreign ministers agree the United States cannot implement Proposition 187, because it is an affront to the rights of Latin Americans, and this measure hurts the U.S. image of being America's biggest defender of human rights:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Proposition 187 violates human and man's fundamental rights. We believe denying access to education, housing, health, and basic services violates a person's basic rights, and we cannot accept this measure. [end recording]

The president has met with the foreign ministers and has asked that a solid and serious position be agreed on NAFTA, because it places Central American countries at a disadvantage. We have a right to demand special treatment due to peace conditions according to the president.

Other topics that will be discussed are follow-ups on the Guacimo Summit and the upcoming San Jose Forum Meeting to be held in February 1995, plus various points such as economic integration and the peace agreements.

Costa Rican Minister on Latin American Proposals

PA2411010294 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2037 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] San Jose, 22 Nov (DPA)—Latin America is hoping the United States will adopt specific actions at the Summit of the Americas, which will take place in Miami in December, aimed at establishing a free trade zone that will cover the entire continent Costa Rican Foreign Trade Minister Jose Rossi said today.

"What we would like to establish is how and when that agreement would be implemented, clearly defining dates and deadlines," Rossi said during a news conference with foreign reporters.

Rossi admitted the summit will not be the site for specific negotiations in view of its characteristics. He said, nevertheless, he hopes it will be the "detonator" to begin a process of trade liberalization on the continent.

Rossi said the subject of trade has recovered its first place on the agenda of the so-called "Miami Summit" during the most recent meetings between U.S. and Latin American government representatives.

He said in that regard Central American countries will insist on requesting their acceptance as special members of NAFTA, signed by the United States, Mexico, and Canada despite the possible inviability of the initiative due to its complexity.

"Those who believe the Miami Summit will conclude with solutions to all the situations and problems in the region will be disappointed. If the summit is seen, however, as a detonator to reactivate the negotiation process, the results will be different," he said.

The United States is reconsidering the possibility of opening NAFTA to the rest of Latin America, a prospect "which is good news for us" according to Rossi.

He said accepting Central American countries as special NAFTA members will represent "no major cost" for Washington, as 90 percent of the products the region places in that nation are duty-free under the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

The Central American proposals will be reiterated on 23 November in Washington during a meeting of White House representatives with delegates from economic blocs on the continent, such as the Common Market of the South, the Andean Pact, the Caribbean Community (Caricom), and Central America.

Rossi said the fact the U.S. Government is trying to redefine its foreign policy toward the region is "very good" for Central America in particular and Latin America in general.

He said we view as "very dangerous and worrisome" the difficulties and obstacles the ratification of the GATT Uruguay Round is facing in the U.S. Congress and Senate.

"There were seven years of negotiations; hence, approval of that commercial treaty should not be jeopardized," he said.

Regarding Central America's desire to be accepted into NAFTA under preferential conditions, he said the main problem is the legal framework protecting the treaty.

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"It would be very difficult to revise the treaty; we will, however, keep insisting," he said.

"We are the only region where the implementation of NAFTA has had negative effects, while on the rest of the continent it has been harmless," he said. He said certain investments, particularly in the area of textiles and clothing, are moving to Mexico due to tariff benefits NAFTA gives that country.

Concerning Costa Rica, he said, during the first 11 months of NAFTA, the number of textile factories dropped between 8-10 percent.

Mexico and Canada have expressed their willingness to expand NAFTA according to Rossi.

Rossi said other existing commercial agreements on the continent should join NAFTA, which is "the best model."

Rossi added Central America hopes the United States will establish a Temporary Trade Plan no later than the first semester of 1995 to compensate the region's loss of competitiveness following implementation of NAFTA. "This measure would balance the disadvantageous position in which we fell in the clothing industry," he said.

Rossi did not rule out the possibility that Central America may seek an alliance with the 13 Caribbean states benefited by the Caribbean Basin Initiative in an effort to be accepted as a bloc in the commercial pact between the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Coca Producers To Urge Joint Struggle at Summit

PY2311153494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0119 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lima, 18 Nov (EFE)—Bolivian Vice President Victor Hugo Cardenas stated in Lima on 18 November that at the Summit of the Americas, Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru will ask that responsibility for drug enforcement be shared fairly by both producing and consumer countries.

Cardenas said that the three countries that produce coca, from which cocaine is extracted, are working on a joint position that will be submitted to the Summit of the Americas, which will be held in Miami on 9-11 December 1994. Their objective is to make the point that everyone involved is responsible for drug enforcement.

Cardenas added that just as Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru are taking great risks and making great efforts to fight the drug trade, consumer countries should make similar, maybe even greater, efforts because "as long as there is a demand for drugs, the problem will not go away."

Cardenas told the government news agency ANDINA that the proposal for a "responsibly and fairly" shared joint struggle will include reconciling antidrug laws in the countries involved in this problem.

As far as the Bolivian vice president is concerned, the drug trade is "a monster so huge" that the isolated efforts of producing countries cannot cope with it. Thus, a joint plan of action was being prepared, and the idea is to include the United States and the European countries in it.

Cardenas believes that the Summit of the Americas, which U.S. President Clinton has called, will be a key forum to discuss drug trade-related problems and the future of continental economic and commercial relations.

On 18 November Cardenas held a private meeting with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori at Government House, and then met with Constituent Democratic Congress President Jaime Yoshiyama. After this meeting, Cardenas again urged drug consuming countries to join the drug fight.

Parlacen Fears Consequences of Proposition 187

PA2411195794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2041 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Central American Parliament (Parlacen) said here today that Proposition 187 could create problems for the region's economies if the thousands of Central Americans who are in the United States illegally are deported.

The recently approved Proposition 187 "could prompt the return of our Central American brothers living there, which would create economic problems" for the region, Parlacen President Augusto Vela Mena said.

Guatemalan Vela Mena arrived in Tegucigalpa on Wednesday for a one-day visit during which he will meet with Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina.

"We reject Proposition 187 because it violates human rights and is discriminatory. It denies Latin American immigrants access to education and medical services," Vela Mena said.

"I hope this unfortunate law is not implemented in its entirety. It is being challenged in the United States right now," he added.

Proposition 187, an initiative of California Governor Pete Wilson, would deny access to health care, education, and other basic social services to illegal immigrants in that North American country. [as received]

Vela Mena said his visit to Honduras is part of a Central American tour to inform the presidents of the area about Parlacen's resolve to promote regional integration and the sustainable development plan.

Following his arrival at the Tegucigalpa airport, Vela Mena went to the Government Palace to meet with Reina to discuss Proposition 187 and the security of Central American citizens traveling in the region, among other topics.

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Cuba

Direct Phone Service With U.S. To Begin 25 Nov

FL2411013694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 23 Nov 94

[Note from the Ministry of Communications, published in GRANMA on 23 Nov—from the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of agreements of operation and interconnections between the Cuban Telecommunications Enterprise [EmtelCuba], of the Ministry of Communications, and six internationally recognized U.S. corporations—(?LDDS), MCI, ATT, Wiltel, Sprint, and IDB WorldCom—direct telephone service between Cuba and the United States will be reestablished on 25 November.

As many may remember, this service was interrupted in August 1992 as a result of the damages caused by Hurricane Andrew's path through the United States. Through the operator centers in the country, the population may request only collect calls—in other words, calls originated in Cuba and paid for by the person accepting the call in the United States, without limitation so far as duration of the call is concerned.

Customers in Havana City may request their calls through the International Long Distance Call Center by dialing 66-12-12 between the hours of 1700 and 0800, local time. Requests for calls during other hours will not be accepted. This initial limitation is due to the condition of the equipment in relation to the capital's telephone network, and will be changed according to usage behavior and the network.

As for the rest of the provinces, this service will be available 24 hours a day. Customers must dial the number that provides access to the long-distance operator in that province.

With the purpose of extending this service and satisfying the demand of those who do not have telephone service in their homes, facilities for collect calls to the United States will be gradually installed, as conditions permit, into the network of public stations located in various municipalities of Havana City and the interior of the country.

In accordance with established norms, calls, under similar conditions, will be facilitated to Spain, the United Kingdom, Canada, Nicaragua, and Italy, all of which have established similar agreements with Cuba.

There are no changes in the existing procedures and dispositions for users of organizations and institutions authorized to make international calls, or for users who pay for the service in convertible currency—mainly tourists and foreign personnel residing in Cuba.

Signed: Ministry of Communications.

Further on Reestablishment of Service

PA2411143894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1531 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 23 Nov (PL)—The Cuban Communications Ministry announced today that direct telephone service between the United States and Cuba will be reestablished on Friday, 25 November.

A ministry press release states that the connection was made possible thanks to recent operational and interconnection agreements signed by the Cuban Telecommunications Enterprise (ENTELCUBA) and six U.S. companies known by the acronyms LDDS, MCI, AT&T, WHILTEL, Sprint, and IDB.

Direct telephone service between the two nations was interrupted in August 1992 as a result of damage caused by Hurricane Andrew in the United States.

The note adds that the Cuban people will only be able to make collect calls, that is, calls made from Cuba that are paid for by the person who accepts the charge in the United states. There will be no limit on the duration of the conversation.

Today's release provides more details than the previous note released on Sunday, which said that since July 1993, when Washington announced its new telecommunications policy toward Cuba, numerous, intense rounds of talks and bilateral negotiations have taken place to reestablish the telephone links.

The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC), with the approval of the U.S. State Department, approved in early October an agreement between ENTELCUBA and the U.S. communication companies, thereby clearing the way for the reestablishment of services.

The note emphasized that the Cuban authorities accepted the agreement to make communication possible between Cuban immigrants residing in the United States and their relatives in Cuba, a point which essentially imbues the agreement with a humanitarian spirit.

According to these agreements, Cuba will receive 60 cents (half of the cost) for each minute of telephone communication which originates in the United States.

The U.S. Government authorized U.S. companies to make the corresponding payments to their Cuban counterpart as its share of income from direct international long distance calls.

UN Envoy Calls Human Rights Report 'Immoral'

FL2411031094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Nov 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Juan Antonio Fernandez, Cuban delegate to the third commission of the UN Assembly,

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has called the report by the special envoy on human rights to Cuba immoral and illegitimate.

Fernandez stated that the report is full of slander and lies regarding Cuba's reality. He stressed that the purpose of the report is to provide a pretext for the UN to approve an anti-Cuban resolution prepared by the United States, whose leaders are responsible of the most serious systematic, mass violations of the human rights of the Cuban people.

In addition, Fernandez stressed that Cuba will not accept impositions, and will not subject its institutions and political system to the arbitrary scrutiny of Washington because U.S. authorities are seeking to humiliate and subdue the Cuban people.

Commentary Assesses UN Commissioner's Visit

PA2311133494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Nov 94

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The announcement by Jose Ayala Lazo, UN high commissioner for human rights, that the human rights dialogue with the Cuban Government will continue; the unmistakable harmony of his visit to Havana, something the guest himself pointed out; and the ease with which the points of his tight agenda were fulfilled were all characteristic of the three-day visit the Ecuadoran jurist made to Cuba.

The high commissioner's visit to Cuba was his first to a Latin American country since assuming this post in January, following a decision by the UN General Assembly.

Because his agenda responded to responsibilities established by the international community, the high commissioner received, as other UN organizations have, Cuba's full cooperation. Havana invited him to obtain first-hand information about the island.

For three days Ayala Lazo had all of the support he required from Cuban authorities, something he acknowledged during a news conference. At the news conference, he confirmed that he met with government officials, labor union members, university and religious representatives, parliamentarians, and people described as dissidents in the terminology of the West.

Consistent with his opinion that in every country in the world it is possible to improve the promotion and development of human rights, the jurist presented suggestions that will be reviewed, he said, by the Cuban Government as it implements its decisions on human rights.

Observers stressed the fact that Ayala Lazo publicly and vehemently emphasized that he did not come to Cuba to investigate the nation, to issue a good-behavior document, or to accuse anyone of anything—something that had been expected from him by extreme right-wing Cuban emigrants and some Western governments interested in presenting a picture of flagrant human rights violations in Cuba.

Cuba has always flatly refused to receive the so-called special rapporteur for human rights, the Swede (Carl Liljengren), because this is a post that has been flawed from its inception since only the United States supports it as part of its anti-Cuban campaign.

It is important to note that GRANMA reported that during Ayala Lazo's meeting with Cuban President Fidel Castro, both men agreed it is necessary to keep the human rights issue from being manipulated for political reasons. If Ayala Lazo's visit contributes to this, this would be yet another reason for pointing out the positive nature of the visit.

World Solidarity Conference Continues Meeting

Robaina on Migration Accord, Summit

PA2311152894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 22 Nov (PL)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina today said unity is the only alternative for the survival for his country.

The foreign minister spoke during the morning session of the World Conference on Solidarity With Cuba taking place in this capital attended by about 3,000 delegates from more than 100 countries.

Robaina talked about the hostile policy being implemented by the United States against the island, and he added that the Cuban Revolution has not fallen and will not fall.

We have already won, because our existence within the world today is in itself a victory, and we will continue to win, because we will continue to exist, he pointed out.

Robaina said the enemies of Cuba want to starve its people to death; however, they actually taught our people to live from their own bread.

We decided to distribute the little we had among many, and not to distribute much among a few, because the revolution of the humble, by the humble, and for the humble could not simply remain Fidel's historical phrase; instead, it had to become a history created by Cuba's own humble people, he added.

Among the priorities of Cuban foreign policy, the foreign minister listed the condemnation of the U.S. blockade, which he described as criminal and inhuman; combating disinformation about the Cuban situation; and fighting for a genuine democratization of the United Nations.

Commenting on this last point, he said that it is necessary to know whether the nations are truly united around

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the charter that gave birth to the United Nations or around the government that manipulates it.

Nothing threatens the security of this world more than a Security Council meeting, because wars today are called humanitarian interventions, peacekeeping operations, and restorations of democracy, he pointed out.

Robaina talked about the recent migration agreement signed with the United States, noting that while Cuba has scrupulously fulfilled its commitments, Washington is still entangled in technicalities that appear to have no end [Washington aun esta enredado en tecnicismos que parecen nunca terminar].

Nevertheless, he voiced Cuba's willingness to expand the negotiation agenda with the United States without any conditions.

In another part of his speech, Robaina said that while Cuba does not export its political model, it does not want the model others claim to be universal to be imported to Cuba, because the so-called neoliberal miracle is collapsing.

"It is true that we are opening to the world, but we are not political chameleons that change our colors to protect ourselves," he said.

The minister commented on a campaign to manipulate the human rights issue, which is used to criticize his country, and he noted that recently the UN high commissioner for human rights personally confirmed the falsehoods surrounding this issue.

Finally, Robaina spoke about the December hemispheric summit in Miami summoned by President Clinton, from which the island has been excluded.

They are afraid that Cuba might speak the truth, as it has done wherever it has been invited, Robaina added.

Castro Terms Conference 'Miracle'

FL2411024694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Nov 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro attended the third day of sessions of the First World Conference on Solidarity With Cuba, on 23 November in Havana's Convention Center. He had attended the first two days of sessions at the Karl Marx Theater, but today the participants separated into three working committees. The first committee is discussing actions to take against the blockade; the second is discussing defamation campaigns and the truth about Cuba; and the third committee is exchanging views on solidarity with Cuba.

Reporter Zenaida Costales interviewed Fidel Castro upon his arrival at the Convention Center:

[Begin recording] [Costales] Fidel, I am from Radio Rebelde. I would like to hear your opinion on the conference?

[Castro] I do not have much time. The conference is going extremely well. That is what I can tell you.

¡Costales] What do you feel about the participation of so many people here?

[Castro] It is a miracle.

[Costales] What do you expect from this event?

[Castro] [Words indistinct]

[Costales] What is your opinion of the international caravan proposed by Lucius Walker?

[Castro] It is a great achievement.

[Costales] Thank you for your words to Radio Rebelde. [end recording]

'Harassments' Against Journalism Detailed

PA2511001394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2313 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 23 Nov (PL)—A solidarity with Cuba meeting that started in Havana yesterday heard reports today on the harassments of the U.S. blockade against journalism on the island.

Juan Marrero, leader of the Union of Cuban Journalists (UPEC), presented a report at the meeting explaining how Washington's economic siege does not allow the country to obtain foreign credits or loans to finance the purchases of advanced technology for the media sector.

The report also reveals that the paper used by the Cuban press is the result of the titatnic efforts of the paper-producing factories, which have serious difficulties in obtaining spare parts for their machines due to the blockade. Such a situation has forced the media to reduce the amount of newspapers and magazines printed.

Media sectors that use electronic appliances, for example, the filming and television sectors, are negatively affected by several problems such as the lack of microwave equipment, transmitters, antennas, telephone lines, cameras, video recorders, tape recorders, and other technical equipment.

Although we should be able to establish a margin between the results of the blockade and our mistakes and deficiencies, we assert with conviction that the economic, financial, and commercial hostilities against Cuba have contributed to the delay in improving our freedom of press and expression, the report stated.

Due to the situation described, more than 3,000 Cuban journalists feel attacked and persecuted by the aggressive

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U.S. policy, the report added, but newspapers are published, radio is broadcast, and television is aired despite the difficulties.

The UPEC report was the central topic at today's debate at the Commission on Slanderous Campaigns and the Truth About Cuba, one of the three commissions established at the solidarity meeting, which is attended by more than 2,800 delegates from 110 countries.

The other two commissions refer to the harmful effects of the U.S. siege and the exchange of ideas and experiences on solidarity with Cuba activities.

Delegates Propose Anti-Defamation Campaign

FL2411025994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Nov 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was a positive workday at Havana's Convention Center, where one of the three committees of the First International Solidarity With Cuba Conference discussed the issue of defamation campaigns, and the truth about Cuba.

Participants from every continent called for the end of negative campaigns against the Cuban Revolution and proposed actions to stop these campaigns, such as the creation of means of alternative communications, denunciation in international forums, and organizing activities to show Cuban reality instead of the distorted image of Cuba spread by the hostile press.

Delegates from Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East joined their unified voices in an effort to completely end the manipulation campaigns that have victimized Cuba for 35 years.

(Agueda Arias) from the United States proposed organizing an international week of protest and education in April 1995, and a solidarity and Cuban aid week in July 1995.

Whether in English, French, Italian, Arabic, or Portuguese, all the participants stated that Cuba is a commendable example to people worldwide, and stressed the need to do whatever it takes for Cuba to continue being a socialist country and a revolutionary historical symbol.

Commission Submits Proposals to Plenum

PA2511024294 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1843 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 24 Nov (PL)—The commission that discusses actions to fight the U.S. blockade against Cuba has approved a group of proposals to be submitted before the plenum of the World Conference on Solidarity With Cuba.

The assembly members have proposed that 1995 be called the International Year of Jose Marti and the Struggle Against the Blockade [Ano Internacional Jose Marti y de Lucha Contra el Bloqueo]. The members also have backed the organization of a friendship caravan, suggested by the U.S. delegation, which will travel in Europe, North America, and Latin America to bring aid to Cuba.

Another of the agreements was to hold activities in various world capitals on 9 December, the date when the Summit of the Americas begins in Miami.

These demonstrations are to protest the island's exclusion from that meeting and to reject the economic, financial, and commercial siege imposed by Washington more than three decades ago.

Likewise, the World Day of Solidarity With Cuba will be observed in 1995 through activities coinciding with Cuban national dates.

The commission has proposed to urge governments to support UN resolutions requesting an end to harassment and to exert pressure on the United States to comply with the resolutions and to demand definite actions by the United Nations aimed at accomplishing this goal.

The commission has agreed to suggest the holding of a second world solidarity meeting, on a date and in a place to be decided later, and urged the use of all possible media alternatives to publicize Cuba's reality.

Another point agreed on is to encourage all types of commercial operations by the various countries with the island, as well as to coordinate solidarity actions with Latin American citizens and other foreigners residing in the United States.

Raul Castro, Sandinist General Hold Work Session

FL2311221294 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Nov 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], met with Nicaraguan Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra, commander in Chief of the the People's Sandinist Army, and his delegation in the offices of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [Minfar] on 22 November.

A climate of mutual understanding prevailed in the work session, during which they discussed issues of bilateral and general interest, as well as exchanging experiences.

During the meeting, Raul Castro briefed Ortega on the state of the country and the measures implemented to confront the current economic situation, stressing efforts by the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] to maintain combat readiness and self-sufficiency.

Ortega expressed his satisfaction at being back in Cuba again. He said he valued the efforts of the Cuban people

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to overcome their problems. He likewise referred to the national situation in Nicaragua, and to the Sandinist Army in particular.

Also present were Division Generals Ulises Rosales del Toro and Julio Casas Regueiro, FAR first vice ministers. The Nicaraguan delegation headed by Army General Humberto Ortega is conducting an official and work visit to Cuba, which will last until 25 November.

Antidrug Trafficking Accord Signed With Venezuela

PA2411235994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1740 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Caracas, 24 Nov (PL)—Venezuela and Cuba have agreed to reinforce cooperation to prevent and fight drug trafficking with measures that include exchanging intelligence information on the subject.

Official delegations from both countries have met for three days in this capital during the second session of the Venezuelan-Cuban Commission for Cooperation to Prevent and Fight the Illegal Traffic of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances.

The adopted decisions include exchanging intelligence data on individuals and criminal activities through the institutions in charge of controlling and repressing drug trafficking in both countries.

The agreements call for exchanging experience on dog training and improving dog breeds as an instrument to fight drug trafficking, as well as establishing a system of yearly courses for experts such as doctors, pharmacists, and lawyers.

It was also agreed to exchange laws, regulations, and resolutions on the control of precursor and essential chemicals, as well as information on the organizational-functional structure of institutions in both countries.

The agreements also include the creation of a network to exchange information on national and international preventive actions.

The Cuban National Drugs Commission as well as the Venezuelan National Guard and Judicial Technical Police will participate in the implementation of the agreement.

Cuban Ambassador to Venezuela German Sanchez has told PRENSA LATINA the meeting was positive and produced broader agreements than the ones signed two years ago, when the mixed commission was created.

Cuba was also represented at the sessions by Colonel Miguel Gonzalez Pardo, chief of the Narcotics Department of the Interior Ministry, and Pablo Rodriguez, representative of the Justice Ministry.

The Venezuelan delegation was headed by Guillermo Romero, president of the National Commission Against the Illegal Use of Drugs.

Gorbachev's Criticism of U.S. Policy on Cuba Cited

FL2411190994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Nov 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mikhail Gorbachev, the former USSR's first and last president, has said that the United States has proved that it is politically myopic via its hostile policy on Cuba. Gorbachev writes in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that conditions have never been more favorable for Washington to begin a dialogue with Havana and find a civilized solution to the blockade problem. The former CPSU secretary general pointed out that, despite the disappearance of the so-called global communist threat, the United States remains attached to Cold War arguments when it comes to Cuba. Gorbachev urged President William Clinton to desist from trying to impose on other nations rulers which he unilaterally declares democratic and defenders of human rights. These pretexts and actions by the White House, Gorbachev adds, confirm the existence of elements of hypocrisy and cynicism in a myopic and unyielding foreign policy.

South Africa's Mandela Expresses Support

PA2311160494 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2117 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 22 Nov (PL)—South African President Nelson Mandela has stressed the ties of friendship that exist between his country and Cuba in a message disclosed at the World Conference on Solidarity with Cuba being held in this capital.

Mandela's note said the current South African Government has new and powerful friends, but it will never forget the support received in the most difficult times—particularly, from the Cubans, "whom we support."

John Gomono, representative of the South African Communist Party, disclosed Mandela's message to approximately 3,000 representatives from more than 100 countries attending the conference.

Along with Charles Ngakula, secretary general of the party, Gomono presented President Fidel Castro with a photograph of South African martyr Chris Hanni. Hanni was killed after taking part in a solidarity demonstration in favor of the Cuban Revolution.

In the morning session, the following officials also expressed their support for Cuba and their rejection of the U.S. blockade against Cuba: Harkishan Singh Surjeet, secretary general of the Communist Party of India/Marxist; Italian European Parliament member Luciano

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Pettinari; and representatives of friendship associations from countries on five continents.

Alarcon Schedules ANPP Session for 20 Dec

PA2311170194 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1537 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 23 Nov (PL)—Ricardo Alarcon, chairman of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], today convened the ANPP deputies to the Fourth Regular Period of Sessions of the Fourth Legislature on 20 December.

The announcement, published in the daily GRANMA, does not provide any details on the topics that will be discussed at the session, but if recent statements by local officials are taken into account, the deputies will review, among other things, four important draft bills.

Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa, chairman of the Permanent Constitutional and Legal Affairs Commission of the ANPP, said in an interview with the weekly TRABAJADORES that legislation on citizenship, organization and operation of the ANPP, national defense, and mining will be presented to the Cuban deputies for discussion.

The citizenship bill defines who is entitled to Cuban citizenship by birth, and it regulates the naturalization system, granting preferential treatment to those who have formed a Cuban family [quienes han formado familia Cubana], as well as to people from Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is also possible that discussions will be held on the implementation of economic measures intended to reduce the amount of excess currency in circulation, as discussed by the ANPP last August, as well as the tax law that is in the process of being gradually implemented.

Finance Minister Views Signs of Financial Recovery

PA2511024694 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Nov 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jose Luis Rodriguez, Cuban finance and prices minister, has said the first positive signs of a financial and monetary recovery in the country can be envisioned after several years of negative indicators. The favorable execution of the state budget, where there are favorable possibilities of initiating the year with a greater reduced fiscal deficit than estimated, the reduction of subsidies to companies for losses, and the slight reduction in the amount of cash in circulation are signs that can already be seen.

The finance minister has said the budget deficit in 1992 was 4.8 billion pesos, while it climbed to 5.50 billion pesos [words indistinct] in this sector in 1993, starting with the subsidies for losses in the state-run companies. These subsidies represented millions in past years. More than half these subsidies were for the Agriculture and Sugar Industry Ministries, while another big percentage was earmarked for basic industries, where a 40-percent reduction can be applied to the subsidies this year compared to the same period last year.

Concerning agriculture, only the necessary subsidies were listed. These consist of aid to the basic production cooperative units, because it cannot be expected that all of them would be profitable during their first year of operation. With regard to these new agricultural production methods, strict programs were implemented to reduce their lack of revenues, or to increase these revenues, in case they generated revenues, so these could do without state subsidies in three to five years. Regarding the sugar sector, Rodriguez has said losses in the current sugar harvest could be larger than estimated, but they will be less than in 1993 in any event. One of the main problems to be overcome is the lack of technological and labor discipline in order to implement plans effectively, so that Cuban advancements in the area of scientific research can help increase production.

Eastern Army Conducts Live-Ammunition Exercise

FL2411031694 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Nov 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Moncada 2-94 exercise, a live ammunition firing exercise, is being conducted with the participation of chiefs, staff, and Eastern Army units in coordination with the Territorial Troops Militia [MTT], as well as with production and defense brigades.

The actions to be taken during a mock amphibious enemy landing demand great creativity and control of resources. This exercise evidences the high degree of training achieved by soldiers, chiefs, and officers.

[Begin General Ramon Espinosa recording] This exercise's purpose is to train all those participating in defensive actions, both MTT and regular troops, in operations in the northern area of the eastern territory and Camaguey. We [pauses] ...through this exercise we can analyze the level of training that our officers, command groups, staff, and provincial staff have achieved during the year. Both the Army and the territory have had good results, as well as receiving high levels of training during this year's defensive readiness training. We are convinced that the outcome of this exercise will have similar results. [end recording]

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Eastern Caribbean Nations' Summit Previewed

FL2411174894 Bridgetown CANA in English 1735 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Roseau, Dominica, Nov. 24, CANA—Dominica's External Affairs Minister Brian

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Alleyne says he expects the issue of the upcoming Summit of the Americas and the question of Windward Island bananas in Europe to be discussed when heads of government of the Organisation of East Caribbean States [OECS] sub-region meet here over the next few days.

While Prime Minister Eugenia Charles terms the two-day meeting opening Thursday afternoon as just "the (sub-region's) finance meeting, arranging for money to be spent", Alleyne, who is also leader-designate of the ruling Dominica Freedom Party, expects it will address a number of crucial issues. He told CANA that in addition to the admission of Anguilla to the regional sub-grouping, Tuesday's early general election decision in St. Kitts/Nevis—three years before constitutionally due—should also be discussed.

"While it's a local situation, I think the whole question of drug trafficking is very much a regional international issue as well," Alleyne stated. He said the other islands must be concerned since drug traffickers, under pressure from St Kitts authorities, may target other OECS countries for their operations. "The inclination would be for them to divert their traffic to another one of the islands, so in that sense at least, it's a regional concern" the external affairs minister explained.

The early St. Kitts/Nevis poll, scheduled for November 15, 1995, is the major concession made in an agreement by Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds during talks with opposition, church, business, trade union and community leaders on Nevis Tuesday. The talks came amid an illegal narcotics scandal blamed for the murders of three persons.

Alleyne said: "It's a very encouraging development because the level of political hostility that has been occurring in St. Kitts cannot be in the interest of the overall society and good governance". He added: "If the parties have been able arrive at an accommodation which means that the political temperature will fall, and the society can operate at a more normal level—then that's obviously in the best interest of the society".

The external affairs minister said the two-day regular meeting of the authority of the OECS will look at the OECS secretariat and its organisations, receive reports from OECS joint missions abroad, and discuss the finances of the organisation.

All OECS prime ministers except Grenada's Nicholas Brathwaite are expected to attend, Charles said.

Bahamas

Government Trying To End Cubans' Hunger Strike

FL2411120994 Bridgetown CANA in English 2229 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Nov. 23, CANA—The United States government has said that it has no jurisdiction over a group of 260 Cuban refugees, 58 of whom are on a hunger strike at a Nassau detention centre for illegal immigrants. Forty-seven Cubans started the hunger strike Sunday afternoon in an attempt to pressure the U.S. government and the United Nations to make a decision regarding their status.

The U.S. Embassy in Nassau said its government announced on October 14 that it would grant humanitarian parole to Cuban citizens under its jurisdiction at safe havens in Guantanamo Bay and Panama who are either chronically ill, over 70 years of age, or unaccompanied children. As a result, 251 paroles were granted out of a population of 31,759, according to the Embassy. The expanded immigrant visa programme agreed upon by the U.S. and Cuban governments in September affects only those Cubans applying at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana.

Meanwhile, some of the refugees told the Nassau TRIBUNE today that Bahamian law enforcement officers attempted to force an end to the strike yesterday evening. "They took away the ceiling (tent) at about 6 p.m. last night. They told us we can't continue because it's bad for the Bahamas Government," Aliozka Castello, a spokesperson for the group, was quoted as saying. According to Roberto Niebla, who has abstained from food for more than 72 hours now, when the officers began tearing down the tent and ripping the sheet-images of Jesus Christ and their Patron Saint the Virgin Mary, "everyone came in a group chanting "We want freedom" and the officers backed off."

Cuba Asked To Allow Refugees To Return

FL2411140094 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Broadcast in progress]...the Bahamas Government is also trying to persuade Cuba to reverse its policy to accept those Cubans who are willing to go home:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] There are 12 persons at the detention center who want to return to Cuba. And, of course, it would be easier to get them back to Cuba, but, again, we have to have the agreement with the Cuban Government, and we're working on this. [end recording]

Over 40 of the Cubans who are being held at the detention center have been on a hunger strike. The motive is to get U.S. officials to respond to their political status. But, the United States says it has no moral obligation to the Cuban nationals.

Hunger Strike 'Orchestrated From Miami'

FL2411173094 Bridgetown CANA in English 1719 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Nov. 24, CANA—A four-day hunger strike by illegal Cuban

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immigrants appears to have been orchestrated from Miami, according to Dr. Doswell Coakley, director of the Bahamas' Immigration Department. Coakley said that when attempts were made to talk the Cubans out of the hunger strike, some of the immigrants said that they had to wait to hear from Miami because if they stopped now, they would not be taken seriously. He said that suggested the strike is being directed by persons in Miami.

Forty-seven Cubans stopped eating Sunday afternoon in an attempt to force the United States government and the United Nations to make a decision regarding their status. Seven more have joined in the strike. The Cubans are part of a group of 262 immigrants who were picked up in Bahamian waters at different stages, and who have been here for more than three months. Some of the immigrants have indicated a desire to return to Cuba. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is presently talking with U.S. and Cuban government officials, and is also looking at other countries which might take the immigrants.

When he last visited the immigrants Wednesday, Coakley said that one or two appeared to be weak, and medical personnel tried to assist them. The Cubans said they had only been drinking boiled water. He said the authorities are concerned for the Cubans health, particularly as the weather is getting cool.

Cayman Islands

Dozens of Cuban Refugees Escape From Camp

FL2311133694 Bridgetown CANA in English 2307 GMT 22 Nov 94

[From the "Broadcast News Summary" for 23 November; no dateline as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dozens of Cuban refugees were still at large on Grand Cayman island after some 150 of the 1,174 being held cut a hole in a detention camp fence and fled. According to police commissioner Alan Ratcliffe, half of the escapees were caught and returned to the tent city by Monday evening, most agreeing to return peacefully. He suggested that the refugees, who have been held for months while the British, Cuban and United States governments debated their fates, were just "fed up" and "bored" with camp life. The refugees held in the Caymans were among thousands who fled Cuba last summer, most attempting to reach the United States. This week, there were still about 25,000 Cubans in U.S. custody at military bases at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and Panama.

Haiti

Military Publishes Findings From Cap-Haitien Incident

FL2311221494 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Poor coordination between the Haitian Army and the U.S. multinational force is allegedly the main cause of the 20 November incidents, which almost cost the lives of 10 Haitian military in Cap-Haitien. Military authorities have published the initial results of their investigations. The U.S. military was not advised of the arrival of the members of the interim police. Denis Victor reports by phone from Cap-Haitien:

[Victor] According to Major (Gary Grefet), the Haitian military who arrived in Cap-Haitien on Sunday, 20 November, at 1700, did not go there as part of the interim police. They were sent there by the Haitian Armed Forces General Headquarters to bring mattresses to Haitian policemen who had already begun working in Cap-Haitien. The military had left Port-au-Prince for Cap-Haitien to ensure the safety of the mattresses transported by two military vehicles.

According to Maj. (Grefet), it was a communication problem: The U.S. military did not know the delegation was arriving. The people demonstrated angrily against the Haitian military. While the Haitian military—handcuffed by the U.S. military—lay prone on the floor, the people asked them for explanations. The fact that they wore khaki uniforms and carried heavy weapons worried the demonstrators.

At the same time, a grenade exploded in a room that had just been rented by a woman called Jocelyne Semexant. Semexant, 27, while cleaning the room so she could move in, was seriously wounded, and died a few hours later. Her daughter, Liphanie Premeus, four, died in the explosion. This incident occurred in the housing development of the Public Enterprise for the Promotion of Social Housing [EPPLS] in the Barriere Bouteille area. That is why people went down to the streets to protest against the military. [passage omitted]

Business Diaspora Explores Investment Opportunities

FL2311233194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Haitian businessmen residing in the United States are bringing their support to the country's economic reconstruction. Grouped together as the Association of Haitian Contractors Abroad, AEH, these businessmen are on a promotional visit to the country. They include bankers, lawyers, managers, telecommunications specialists, and odontologists. These Haitians want to invest in Haiti. The Association of Haitian Contractors Abroad met with the media on 22 November. Edner Jean filed a report:

[Begin recording] They are willing and they have the money. These Haitian contractors ask only for the strict minimum from the government: a guarantee for the security of their investments. These businessmen demand participation in the economic affairs of their country. These sons, returning from far away—the United States, France, and Canada—want to help Haiti

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make the grade. They did not stop saying so during their news conference on Tuesday. Given the task to be accomplished, they were accompanied by foreign experts also willing to invest their money and their knowledge in the country. Arriving in Port-au-Prince beginning on Sunday, the Association of Haitian Contractors has already explored the various fields in which the members could immediately invest. In this respect, they were insistent about the hotel industry, a basic element for the economic boost, they argued.

Regarding the privatiziation of the great public firms, as included in President Aristide's economic plan, the Association of Haitian Contractors Abroad believes this measure is being promoted by the democratic systems throughout the world. They hope that the Haitian state will protect these public firms from complete monopoly by the large international firms. [passage omitted].

These Haitian businessmen living abroad are holding out their hands to their Haitian brothers. They only ask to be received as brothers. [end recording]

Background on New Minister, Secretaries Cited

FL2311134194 Bridgetown CANA in English 2307 GMT 22 Nov 94

[From the "Broadcast News Summary" for 23 November; no dateline as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Haitian Prime Minister Smarck Michel has made some new nominations to his government, appointing an environment minister for the first time as well as several well-known faces to other more minor posts.

A decree said Michel named Tony Verdieu as Environment Minister, making the environment portfolio the fifth new ministry in his 18-post government. Verdieu, a senior member of the MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti] party of opponent Marc Bazin, joins the newly-created ministries of Women's Affairs, Culture, Public Functions and the Tenth Department.

Michel also named Maryse Pennet, a former diplomat and popular restaurateur, as Secretary of State for Tourism and former head of the Central Bank Roger Perodin as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The Secretary of State's position is below cabinet rank.

Paul Dejean, a well-known human rights activist and former Aristide adviser, was appointed Secretary of State for Alphabetization—teaching people to read and write, while Gerard Blot was named to a similar post in the Health Ministry.

Michel took over as prime minister early this month charged with getting the Caribbean nation running again after a stalled three years under military rule.

Drivers Union Threatens Strike Over Fuel Prices

FL2311221594 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The officials of the Public Transportation Drivers Union [CSTP] will meet on 24 November with members of the Michel government on the price of fuel and public transportation fares. CSTP threatened to call a general strike at the beginning of December if the government does not lower fuel prices. [passage omitted]

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Diplomatic Note Sent to U.S. on Proposition 187

PA2511022894 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 24 Nov 94 pp 64, 42

[Report by David Aponte]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mexican Government has sent a diplomatic note to the U.S. Department of State requesting a "top level" meeting to reverse the negative effects of Proposition 187 and to discuss strategies to resort to international forums in defense of the human rights of immigrants and the protection of children, Foreign Secretary Manuel Tello has announced.

Tello said during a private meeting with deputies and senators who are members of the commissions in charge of following up on the California government's initiative against immigrants that Mexican authorities will present a proposal at the Summit of the Americas, which will take place from 9 to 11 December in Miami, on the nondiscrimination of immigrants in education and health care.

The Chamber of Deputies Pluripartisan Commission has asked the Foreign Relations Secretariat (SRE) to reinforce consular activities to protect our compatriots and to protest all violations of human rights of migratory workers.

PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] Deputy Carlos Reta has said "we also have proposed to the federal government that a meeting of the Mexico-United States Binational Commission be held as soon as possible to review the immigration problem as a priority topic on its agenda." He added the objective of the meeting would be to initiate talks to define a legal framework to guarantee the human and labor rights of migratory workers.

The deputies also have stressed the need to demand respect for NAFTA's parallel agreement on labor matters, which calls for "giving migrant workers in each one of the signatory countries the same legal protection given to its nationals with regard to working conditions."

Tello and Deputy Foreign Secretary Andres Rozental discussed during the sessions, held at the Foreign Secretariat's conference area, the background and contents of Proposition 187, the voting results, the legal ramifications of its approval, judicial actions, preliminary juridical resolutions, and the measures adopted by the Mexican Government.

Tello and Rozental have told congressmen that it was difficult to call a meeting of the Binational Commission for the near future but that the group in charge of the immigration problem could have a working session during the first weeks of January 1995.

Tello explained "in an additional diplomatic note sent to the U.S. Department of State, through our Embassy in Washington, U.S. federal authorities were invited to a high-level meeting to discuss strategies by which various international instances and forums specialized in human rights and child protection could help in the task of reversing the negative effects of Proposition 187."

In addition, Mexican authorities are closely following judicial actions against Proposition 187 and have created a working group to analyze legal procedures, "to evaluate the convenience and possibility of contributing with pertinent ideas," Tello has said.

Tello and Rozental have said the Mexican Government will initiate complementary actions against Proposition 187, will promote protests before international organizations and forums, will work on a draft resolution urging UN member states to sign and approve the Convention on the Protection of Migratory Workers and their Relatives, and will cosponsor a draft resolution calling an International Conference on Immigration no later than 1996.

Zedillo Meets Canadian Prime Minister in U.S.

PA2311233594 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 23 Nov 94

[Report by Guillermo Ortega; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are already in Washington, the District of Columbia, following a six-hour visit to Ottawa, which, despite its briefness, provided an opportunity for President-elect Ernesto Zedillo to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and to assess the manner in which Mexico can improve its relations with this powerful partner in the North. It has already been learned that the talks held by the two leaders were very cordial and that they even agreed to set up a direct telephone line to maintain closer and direct communications.

We mentioned that trade was the main topic discussed, particularly the need to open and broaden it to promote development and well-being in our country. President-elect Zedillo told us something on board the airplane, however, that reveals a new strategy to conduct our relations with the two giants of the North. Beyond commercial and financial aspects, Zedillo said, Mexico is seeking to increase its ties with Canada, because this country will help Mexico balance its relations with the United States; in other words, Mexico must seek a way to side with the Canadians when it comes to defending itself from interests promoted by the United States.

Zedillo said on board the airplane Jean Chretien is a sensible and understanding man. Chretien is very much aware of the problems that characterize bilateral relations and is truly willing to promote a new stage in Mexican-Canadian relations. Zedillo told us a new political relation has begun between Mexico and Canada today. I foresee, Zedillo said, great potential in this new relation.

We landed in Washington less than an hour ago, half an hour later than planned. The president-elect is already at

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his hotel resting, because tomorrow will be a busy day. Zedillo is scheduled to hold early meetings with newspaper editors and columnists. He will also meet with OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria and IDB President Enrique Iglesias. He will meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton in the White House around noon.

President-elect Zedillo said tonight a few minutes before deplaning he hopes his meeting with President Clinton will be friendly, cordial, and respectful. He said that Clinton has proved to be Mexico's friend and that he hopes his meeting with him will be cordial. The meeting between Zedillo and Clinton will take place around noon. We will prepare a report on the results of this meeting.

Views Ruiz Massieu Accusations, U.S. Trip

PA2411153394 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 24 Nov 94

[Report by Guillermo Ortega; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexican President-elect Ernesto Zedillo ended his visit to the United States this afternoon after describing his international and domestic policy, thus allowing us to clearly see that when he reaches the presidency on 1 December, his leadership will be kind and cordial but firm.

Zedillo was pleased with his long meeting with President Bill Clinton, who was very friendly toward the Mexican president-elect. Before leaving Washington, Zedillo told us his trip was very positive and that he hopes to have excellent relations with the U.S. Government.

News of the events that took place in Mexico City this morning reached Washington, forcing the president-elect to take a moment to comment on the resignation of Deputy Attorney General Mario Ruiz Massieu.

[Begin Zedillo recording] I would like to clearly say that the justice system under my administration will make it a priority to continue investigations into this condemnable crime. We will take the case over from the previous government and will intensify and extend the investigations. We and the Mexican people want justice. We want to know the truth and for those responsible for this brutal assassination to be punished.

I also know that Mr. Mario Ruiz Massieu has made very serious accusations that involve very important persons in Mexican political circles. At this time, however, I am unaware of the information or the suppositions upon which he bases his accusations. I would like to have that information so I can make my own judgment. Since I lack those elements, I cannot make any judgment about the accusations or the persons involved. I will await that information—if it has, in fact, been supplied—before making my own judgment. [end recording]

Zedillo also recognized today that the justice system in Mexico leaves much to be desired.

[Begin Zedillo recording] Unfortunately, our state of law leaves much to be desired. We are not pleased. Citizens are not pleased with the work done by the justice system. [end recording]

The presidents also discussed immigration; specifically, Proposition 187 against illegal immigrants in California. Both opposed actions of this kind. We asked Zedillo his opinion on remarks by California Governor Pete Wilson, who accused Mexico of involving itself in U.S. domestic affairs. This is what Zedillo said:

[Begin Zedillo recording] I would say simply that the human rights of the Mexican people will be the concern of the Mexican Government and people. [end recording]

We were able to talk to Zedillo before he boarded his flight back to Mexico. Today President Clinton made a gesture toward the president-elect that shows his goodwill toward Mexicans. When Zedillo was about to leave the White House, President Clinton called all personnel of Mexican origin working at the White House to greet their future president.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] Even though Proposition 187 is an initiative by a single state, it is a topic that has been discussed in great detail over the last few days. Today President Clinton made a kind gesture when he called people of Mexican origin working at the White House to greet the Mexican president-elect. How does Ernesto Zedillo interpret this gesture?

[Zedillo] It is in keeping with his public position on this issue. He has criticized Proposition 187 and has publicly stated that it is unconstitutional. He said the U.S. Government will work to prevent these types of initiatives from being implemented. I interpret this action as a friendly gesture that reveals the human quality of the U.S. President. [end recording]

That is how the president-elect's first tour abroad ended. He was able to meet with the presidents of all of Mexico's neighboring countries to the north and south in two marathon trips lasting 40 hours each. If we had to summarize the results of this intense trip to Central America and North America, we could say that the Mexican president-elect was satisfied.

Zedillo Discusses EZLN, NAFTA on Central American Tour

PA2311124094 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 21 Nov 94 p 1-20

[Report by Jose Urena]

[FBIS Translated Text] Guatemala, 19 Nov—Ernesto Zedillo stated here that the next administration will look after "the legitimate social needs of the group that has organized" in Chiapas and will strive to guarantee national unity.

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The president-elect said that he will attend to the problem "from the moment he assumes office, in other words, as of 1 December. Until then, responsibility for this issue lies solely with the administration of President (Carlos) Salinas."

In wrapping up his Central American tour, Zedillo also offered support to the Guatemalan peace process in an "impartial, neutral manner, and without any interest from the Mexican Government to occupy center stage."

Mexico will follow two parallel directions in its relations with all the Central American nations; on the one hand, it will seek bilateral agreements, and on the other, it will support the inclusion of the entire region in the Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Zedillo insisted that to Mexico "it must be a matter of priority to ensure good relations will all the Central American nations" and contends that he intends to "work untiringly together with my colleagues to fulfill that commitment to our people."

On the other hand, Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio announced that there will be joint efforts to provide safety along the common border. De Leon Carpio pointed out that the repatriation of Guatemalan refugees will continue next year. The president also disclosed that the Mexican debt will be used to finance the economic development of communities on both sides of the border.

Zedillo ended his two-day tour with brief visits to Panama, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. While in Panama, he deplored the fact that "the traditional good relations between Mexico and Panama had been at a standstill," and offered to intensify them.

The Mexican president-elect, as well as his host Ernesto Perez Balladares. agreed to increase cooperation, especially against drug trafficking. However, they both insisted that the moment has arrived for the problem to be viewed in a more global manner and that consumer countries must also acknowledge their responsibility.

Sometime before noon, Zedillo flew to Managua. During talks with President Violeta Barrios Chamorro, the president stressed that if upon his return to Mexico the free trade agreement between Mexico and Nicaragua had not been completed "he would try to have it ready as soon as possible."

He insisted that "Mexico seeks to be a fair, responsible brother to the Central America countries, and that that responsibility, solidarity, and fraternity will be expressed during my administration through continuous and growing cooperation."

The lengthiest talks took place in Guatemala and occupied a considerable part of the afternoon. Amid the strictest security measures of the entire tour, Zedillo met with President Ramiro De Leon Carpio. After 1800 hours, they announced the establishment of a bilateral commission that will be responsible for assessing all issues related to trade, political, security, financial, and bilateral cooperation between the two countries with the objective of preparing an agenda that will be discussed during a second meeting scheduled for the first half of 1995.

De Leon pointed out that, fortunately, the case of the Guatemalan refugees had been resolved "without any major difficulties... This is a new experiment relatling to voluntary collective return based on ageements, and we believe that next year, the steps involved in the refugees' return will be made more expeditious."

Other issues discussed included cooperation to explore and prospect oil and geothermic fields, the electrical interconnection and electrification of border communities, the purchase of large volumes of medication from the Health Secretariat (SSA), and support for efforts to improve the social infrastructure in communities along the border by using funds from the Guatemalan debt with Mexico.

When the topic of support for the peace process in Guatemala was broached, the Mexican president-elect insisted: "I have told the president that Mexico's support will be impartial, neutral, and without any interest on our part to occupy center stage. Our only interest lies in supporting the people and Government of Guatelama to ensure the peace they seek, which means so much to this sister nation's development."

With respect to the guerrillas in Chiapas, the Guatemalan president indicated that "no way does it affect relations betwen Guatemala and Mexico, even though the dissatisfied groups that have risen in southern Mexico have appeared in the regions bordering Guatemala. In addition, coincidentally, there are Guatemalan departments bordering Mexico where armed clashes and a subversive presence have been recorded."

The solution: "The only possible path to solve the Chiapas problem is the path of negotiation, the road to reconciliation, the path of harmony, the path to peace, the path to solve the legitimate social demands claimed by the group that has been organized. We must do this within the framework of the Constitution of the republic, and by always respecting that principle and objective of the national unity all Mexicans are instilled with."

Regarding the Guatemalan and Central American immigrants, Zedillo insisted that he will carry out all migration laws, "but that compliance cannot be to the detriment of the respect of the human and labor rights our brothers deserve."

Zedillo's final assessment of his first international tour: the common denominator he found with the other seven heads of state "is democracy, an eagerness to guarantee social peace, and a profound aspiration to build a new stage of development. I have found an extraordinary

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affinity, a political affinity that even goes beyond our cultural and historical affinity."

Mexico Supports More than 7,000 Initiatives in Central America

Mexico is willing to support the more than 7,000 projects in Central America by providing financing and technical advice. The projects include specialties such the teaching of Spanish in Belize, oil exploration on Guatemala and Panama, and technology to produce asphalt in rainy regions.

A meticulous evaluation will be carried out with each of the seven countries to ascertain what is already being administered, what has worked, and what should be added in order to increase cooperation and apply whatever financing may be needed.

Special attention will be paid to the debt renegotiated with Nicaragua since the country no longer receives Mexican crude oil within the framework of the San Jose Pact but has agreed to repay the $1.1 billion it owes Mexico by resorting to two mechanisms; the so-called zero coupon, and swapping debt for assets. The Iucasel [name as published] investment that includes a letter of intent to invest in the Momotombo geothermic field was endorsed by Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe and is merely the first of many available possibilities.

Cementos Mexicanos is attempting to structure another agreement to purchase the Nicaragua Cement Factory. The amount to be invested could surpass $50 million, one tenth of the $500 million earmarked to carry out the negotiation.

During President-elect Zedillo's and Violeta Barrio de Chamorro's news conference, no information was provided with respect to how the negotiations were progressing. However, President Chamorro expressed her hopes of obtaining more support from the Mexican Government in the immediate future.

In public, the Nicaraguan president addressed Zedillo as "my new son." In private she addressed him as *Ernestito*, and said that had it not been for Mexico's support, Nicaragua "would have ceased to exist." The meeting between the two presidents was open, without any ceremony, and President Chamorro welcomed Zedillo to the *Violeta Club.*

Deputy Attorney General Ruiz Resigns Post, Party

PA2411050494 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Nov 94

[Report by Victor Manuel Mejia; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mario Ruiz Massieu chose the Mexico Auditorium at the Attorney General's Office [PGR] to announce his separation from the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], to state his resignation from his post as deputy attorney general in charge of the investigations into the murder of his brother, Jose Francisco, to accuse a political group within the PRI for this crime, and to demand from the next government willingness and determination in clarifying the case. The room was too small for the hundreds of media representatives, spectators, politicians from all parties, and the public in general.

Ruiz Massieu arrived at noon, right on schedule. He was neatly dressed, and although he looked tired, the expression in his eyes and the tone of his voice were firm when reading the 16 pages of his speech. He frequently improvised and was constantly interrupted by slogans, shouts, applauses, or acclamations after each key phrase or word used in making his strong revelations.

The atmosphere was very hot, partly due to the national tension of the moment, the political effects his statement is expected to have, and the multitude that has gathered at the PGR's main auditorium.

Ruiz Massieu said he acted at all times with the total and full authorization of the president of the republic, contrary to other government officials who have permanently obstructed the investigations.

Here are excerpts of his speech. He has said there are political groups embedded in power who are resisting the country's modernization and democratic advancements and who are willing to kill if necessary to protect their interests:

[Ruiz Massieu] "It is sad certain politicians in Mexico do not realize the country has changed and requires that we put aside corrupt, unhealthy, and even criminal practices. They will undoubtedly carry in their consciences the weight of future political crimes in Mexico and those that already have occurred, as well as the political and social decomposition in our country, which many Mexicans will always try to prevent. [applause].

"The year 1994 will be of great political importance in Mexican history. It is the year when PRI presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colossio and PRI Secretary General Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu were assassinated. Those murders should at least serve to accelerate the transition to democracy and permit its development in the entire the country. It is sad to see that the murderers in the case of the PRI are still militants. It is also sad to see that the procedures that are expeditiously used to appoint president and secretary general of the party are not used to expel presumed criminals."

Ruiz Massieu said he has delivered evidence before a public notary implicating top PRI leaders in the homicide. He stressed that the second phase of the investigations will require profound political decisions that are not his but the next administration's responsibility:

[Ruiz Massieu] "The president-elect's words should be reflected in actions, not only in the newspapers.

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[applause] The report on the first phase of the investigations into the murder of Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu as well as the corresponding documents will be delivered before a public notary in due time. It contains, among other things, evidence against Ignacio Pichardo Pagasa, and Maria de los Angeles Moreno, against whom there is enough evidence to strip her of her immunity as a presumed criminal and to indict her for several crimes, for which the Federal Attorney General's Office has initiated preliminary investigation No. 031-DGI-94, and Attorney General Humberto Benitez Trevino, who has collaborated with them.

"These documents will enable the president-elect to instruct the new authorities he will appoint to continue the investigations up to the last consequences without any delay. There should be no pretexts; the documents are there. [applause]

"As Mexicans, it is sad to see people having such low morals occupying positions within the ruling party, in the Senate of the republic, or in offices linked to the administration of justice."

Finally, let us hear the last part of Ruiz Massieu's speech:

[Ruiz Massieu] "I want to announce I agreed with the president of the republic this morning to submit my resignation as deputy attorney general of the republic and consequently will no longer be in charge of the investigations into the murder of my slain brother. This action will enable the president-elect to choose someone of his confidence to continue this task.

"I am satisfied, because at all times I knew the difference between reason and emotion, because I was able to confront the attacks from PRI members who have wanted to stop the investigations, because I broke the mold of accepting the abject practice of not talking without authorization. [applause] I am withdrawing from the investigations when the first phase is over, and the second phase requires political decisions beyond my responsibility. I had to confront the PRI, and I did so, but the political class within the PRI was stronger than the president's will. The political class within the PRI was stronger than the president's determination and overruled the president's call for justice and truth.

"I have fulfilled my duty as government official and as a citizen. I have stoically faced the death of a man whose political talent was not forgiven. I have identified those who obstructed the investigations time and again. They will surely obtain a government position on 1 December."

PRI Official Demands Ruiz Present Evidence

PA2411050694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Nov 94

[Statement by Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza, secretary general of the Institutional Revolutionary Party National Executive Committee, at the PRI headquarters in Mexico City; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] I demand that the Attorney General's Office present the evidence the former deputy attorney general has repeatedly said he had and would present today regarding the alleged hindrance of the investigation by the president of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and the secretary general of the National Executive Committee.

If this is the case, I request that the Attorney General's Office take custody of this evidence in view that the terms of the announcement made by the former deputy attorney general would deliver the alleged evidence before a notary public, a procedure which in no way is appropriate. This is probably intended to later claim before the authorities the evidence was tampered with or even missing.

Today, the Attorney General's Office requested that the deputy attorney general present the evidence, something which he did not do.

Four, [number as heard] the former deputy attorney general has made several allegations, possibly criminal, since 28 September such as making slanderous, defamatory, and offensive statements against a person or against his moral reputation, blaming the person for nonexistent events and behavior without presenting reliable evidence to back his repeated claims. He has also carried out preliminary investigations without following legal procedures, as has become evident by the following:

It is totally false that Central Executive Committee [CEN] leaders, specifically its president and secretary general, have been involved in any criminal behavior whatsoever, as the former deputy attorney general has wrongly charged. He charges collusion with the attorney general in connection with a document requesting a leave of absence which former Federal Deputy Manuel Munoz Rocha has made.

Equally untrue are the reiterated affirmations by the former deputy attorney general that these leaders have hampered or interfered with the investigations. The truth is the requested cooperation was offered at all times and given and will continue to be given. This point includes that a significant number of federal deputies be summoned to give evidence before the Attorney General's Office.

I will deliver here to the national media before this meeting is over copies of the official notes the former deputy attorney general has addressed to the CEN president. He states in those notes and recognizes the cooperation the CEN presidency has given to summon a group of former legislators to answer what the Attorney General's Office wanted to find out.

Likewise, PRI legislators have backed the proper constitutional body by granting a leave of absence to the main suspect for the purpose of expediting, accelerating, and supporting the inquiry.

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Five, the former deputy attorney general, by making groundless public charges—because not even today has he released the evidence that supposedly supports the charges—has done so fraudulently, trying to bring dishonor, discredit, and harm both to the party itself as well as to its leaders, as is widely known to the public.

The former deputy attorney general has not proved what he had said. In addition to probably committing a crime against honor, he likewise has not fulfilled his duty to inform judicial authorities of the alleged events that were never proved. Nevertheless, he insistently claims to have proof, including using the media, which, in addition, is slander, presumably also a crime. Regardless of the responsibility his case may have, he has violated the legally required reservation for preliminary inquiries, as Article 16 of the Penal Code and Penal Procedure provides.

Six, the former deputy attorney general denies there was any legal impediment to investigate the case due to his relationship with well-remembered and respected former PRI Secretary General Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu. The former deputy attorney general lies once again by making a twisted and mistaken interpretation of the law. There are clear laws, both in the attorney general's internal rules as well as in the judicial branch, such as Articles 26 and 27 in the former and Article 82 in the latter, that indicate that as deputy attorney general he had a legal impediment to deal with his own brother's case.

In addition, he should have sought to be relieved, a situation not unknown to him as an attorney, at least to his post as deputy attorney general.

This obvious case is punishable by law when it describes illegal acts committed by public servants, such as those entrusted with handling justice, when they deal or discuss affairs to which there is an impediment for them to handle or the obligation to abstain, such as this case.

The former deputy attorney general has said he has respected the law. Previous evidence proves the opposite.

Seven, in his public statement today, the former deputy attorney general insists on using insulting and slanderous terms toward the PRI and its leaders. Today, he has not proved any of these charges, as he had repeatedly offered to do.

Eight, the former deputy attorney general, as director of this investigation, also incurred in other presumably criminal acts, such as the case of two deputies of the honorable Congress of the union who had their constitutional privileges violated by arresting and presenting them with excessive force before the attorney general's office to testify.

The people concerned will most certainly take the legal action to which they have a right.

Nine, all of the aforementioned statements reflect diverse irregularities, which may possibly be criminal, including the misuse of power. This point is why the CEN presidency of the PRI have agreed to issue the proper instructions to its legal representatives to gather up the necessary evidence and present a legal case requesting the investigation of these events to the Attorney General's Office.

PRI Secretary General: Charges Creating 'Smoke Screen'

PA2411161094 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 24 Nov 94

[Report by Francisco Trejos; from the "Early Morning" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] Secretary General Maria de los Angeles Moreno has responded to the accusations made against her, saying that Mario Ruiz Massieu [former deputy attorney general] has no evidence against the PRI and that there may well be other motives behind the murder of the late PRI secretary general [Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu].

[Begin Moreno recording] One might ask what he could be hiding? What does he not want known? If he wants the guilty to be found and has the evidence to prove who they are, then he should produce it. If he doesn't, then he is simply creating a smoke screen to hide the truth. [end recording]

[Trejos] Be that as it may, the senator did not rule out the possibility that the former deputy attorney general could be hiding information indicating some other motive for the murder.

[Begin Moreno recording] Why follow just one theory from the beginning? Why discard other possibilities? Investigations should look into other leads. [end recording]

[Trejos] Maria de los Angeles made these statements at a private gathering of 40 persons prominent in Mexican art, all of whom are friends of Maria de los Angeles who expressed their unconditional support. This was not an unusual event, but the day's developments made the encounter more interesting.

The situation did not seem to have had any affect on the senator. The guests began arriving at 2000. The senator arrived at 2240 and affirmed that she was not worried about the evidence the former deputy attorney general said he had against her.

[Begin Moreno recording] I myself have asked for the evidence to be produced. I am a senator, and he spoke about lifting my immunity. It will be my pleasure; all he has to do is produce the evidence. I would love to know what he has to support his accusations. I am convinced he has nothing. [end recording]

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[Trejos] Moreno, who was recently proclaimed woman of the year, regretted that Mario Ruiz Massieu threw in the towel without presenting the results of his investigation or the proof he had promised the community. One last question for the senator: What could be behind Mario Ruiz Massieu's statements?

[Begin Moreno recording] It could be an attempt to draw attention to himself for other purposes. Then again, it could be to create a smoke screen to hide the truth. [end recording]

Attorney General Denies Charges; Salinas Backs PRI Head

PA2411150494 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 24 Nov 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Deputy Attorney General Mario Ruiz Massieu on 23 November resigned his post as well as his membership in the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI]. [passage omitted]

Attorney General Humberto Benitez Trevino tonight replied to the former deputy attorney general's accusations.

[Begin Benitez Trevino recording] Former Deputy Attorney General Mario Ruiz Massieu has not presented any evidence to confirm his accusations against me, Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza, or Senator Maria de los Angeles Moreno, even though he announced at noon today that he would present this evidence to a notary public and even though he received a formal request this afternoon to present the evidence he claims to have to support his accusations.

The internal comptroller of the Attorney General's Office has specific orders to receive this evidence in the presence of a notary public. Ruiz Massieu claims to have this evidence, but he has not presented it. If he wishes, he may report where this evidence is located. [end recording]

In addition, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has recognized the work done by Senator Maria de los Angeles Moreno. Speaking at Los Pinos, President Salinas de Gortari said nothing or no one can cast any doubts as to the honesty and respectability of PRI Secretary General Maria de los Angeles Moreno. President Salinas de Gortari hosted a breakfast in her honor for having received the 1994 Woman of the Year award

[Begin Salinas de Gortari recording] Now, there is more reason for (?praising) Maria de los Angeles Moreno. We must make that clear. Nothing or no one can cast any doubts as to the honesty of Maria de los Angeles Moreno. Nothing or no one can cast any doubts as to the respectability of Maria de los Angeles Moreno. Nothing or no one can cast any doubts as to the virtue, patriotism, or propriety of Maria de los Angeles Moreno. [end recording]

President Salinas de Gortari hosted a private breakfast to honor Maria de los Angeles Moreno, named Woman of the Year by the National Women's Foundation.

Zedillo Approves Pact for Well-Being, Growth

PA2311125394 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 21 Nov 94 p 1-11

[Report by Alejandro Benitez and Humberto Rios]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Pact for Well-Being, Stability, and Growth was approved yesterday and accepted last night by President-elect Ernesto Zedillo, who made a commitment to keep public finances balanced, to create more jobs with higher salaries, to lower inflation, and to stabilize prices.

Zedillo made a commitment in his Cuicuilco office, where he received the delegates of the sectors participating in the Pact, to fulfill the Pact's objectives through the proposed federation budget for 1995, which he "will present to the Chamber of Deputies no later than 15 December."

He said it will be possible to attain those objectives only to the extent that all involved sides fulfill the agreements. The objectives include lowering inflation to 4 percent during 1995 and making the true growth rate of the gross national product at least equal to the population growth rate.

Zedillo said in the presence of Labor Secretary Manuel Gomezperalta, Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche, and Finance and Public Credit Secretary Pedro Aspe, as well as Bank of Mexico governor Miguel Mancera Aguayo, and delegates of the labor, peasant, and business sectors: "I hereby make an appeal for the concerted effort to remain an essential part of the economic policy. Thus, it will be in my government."

Zedillo said he wants the country's economy to attain a sufficient and sustained growth while price stability is consolidated.

The labor secretary was in charge in the meeting of reading the document, which was signed on 24 September and approved last night, highlighting the productive and government sectors' purpose of lowering inflation to 4 percent in 1995.

It was also agreed to raise workers' salaries, to stimulate investment, particularly in small- and medium-scale enterprises, and to maintain the public sector's prices and rates based on quality, international competitiveness, and stability.

Some of the Pact's objectives concern better labor training; having the Bank of Mexico make its operations in such a way as to contribute to lowering inflation; to

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attain inflation levels similar to those of Mexico's leading commercial partners; to increase purchasing power, and to improve the competitiveness of the national productive system.

Gomezperalta explained that the labor, peasant and business sectors, the federal executive, and the Bank of Mexico have agreed to renew the pact, extending its deadline to 31 December 1995 within the framework of the concerted effort that has taken place over the past seven years.

So as to consolidate stability and economic growth, Gomezperalta said, the signatory sectors have agreed to redouble their efforts to fulfill the pact, and they have agreed: to confirm all the pledges signed on 24 September and to inform the president-elect of this confirmation "so that it will be taken into consideration for the preparation of the next administration's government plan."

Meanwhile, the president-elect, said Gomezperalta, has confirmed his pledge of financial and price stability as requirements to achieve the goal of sustained economic growth, which he spoke of during his campaign.

The document was read at a brief meeting, which concluded at approximately 2230. It stated "it is essential to make the development of private investment the highest of priorities" to encourage economic growth and the consequent generation of jobs demanded by the Mexican people.

The document also contains a proposal to review taxes on assets in the following three aspects: a 10-percent reduction of taxes on assets will be proposed; there will be a grace period of four years, during which new investments will not be taxed; and businesses that record losses during any given fiscal year will be able to deduct this tax or refrain from paying it if they made profits during the three previous years.

The labor and business sectors will recommend that their respective representatives at the National Commission on Minimum Wages approve a 4-percent pay raise effective 1 January 1995, in accordance with the inflation goal agreed upon, plus a raise based on production attributable to manpower, based on the formula approved by that commission's Council of Representatives last year.

Likewise, the sectors will suggest to the next administration that it advise its representative on the Commission on Minimum Wages to approve the raises agreed upon. These wage increases will be added to those resulting from the tax credit described in Agreement 2.

The business sector has agreed to do everything within its power to parlay the tax advantages anticipated in this agreement into lower prices, and they have acknowledged they will contribute to the achievement of three essential goals by adopting this strategy: inflation levels similar to those of our leading commercial partners, the increased purchasing power of salaries, and improvements in the competitiveness of the national productive apparatus and its performance on markets in comparison to international products.

The business sector has also pledged to maintain full supplies of all the goods and services it generates.

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El Salvador

Deputies To Travel to U.S. To Discuss Deportation

PA2411005494 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A legislative branch delegation will travel to Washington at the beginning of December in an effort to get the U.S. authorities to extend the "Deferred Deportation Program," which expires on 31 December 1994 and affects thousands of immigrants, including at least 200,000 Salvadorans.

Rene Figueroa, chairman of the Legislative Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, has told the media the mission is formed by four deputies. It includes Joaquin Iraheta of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena), Miguel Saenz of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), Tomas Mejia of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and Dagoberto Marroquin of the National Conciliation Party (PCN).

The ruling party deputy has said the Salvadoran delegation will meet with senators and congressmen during its four-day visit to the U.S. capital. The deputies hope to speak with Attorney General Janet Reno to discuss "the extension of our fellow countrymen's stay."

Figueroa has said the deputies' visit is another effort by the legislative branch to help the Salvadoran immigrants who are threatened with deportation beginning 1 January 1995.

The ruling party deputy recalled the Legislative Assembly sent a letter some months ago signed by the 84 deputies to Attorney General Reno requesting a decision in favor of those threatened with deportation, stating "she has the last word" and "hoping their effort will be successful."

The country is in no shape to receive the 200,000 Salvadorans, given that El Salvador is in a phase of reconstruction and economic reactivation according to Figuero, and their return would be "a burden."

He added they hope the U.S. authorities will extend the program for about two years or establish a permanent mechanism to prevent the distress thousands of immigrants suffer each year.

Guatemala

De Leon Willing To Take Part in Talks With Rebels

PA2511043694 Paris AFP in Spanish 1046 GMT 24 Nov 94

[By Francis Kohn]

[FBIS Translated Text] Guatemala City, 24 Nov (AFP)—Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio has said he is willing to directly participate in negotiations with the guerrilla groups, if his presence is "necessary at a given moment" to end the last, and oldest, military conflict in Central America.

"I am willing to travel and do everything necessary to lead my people to peace," said De Leon in an interview with AFP at the Presidential Palace in Guatemala City.

The head of state has recognized it is necessary to "make up" for lost time. Nevertheless, he added, "it is necessary to maintain the current form of talks between the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), sponsored by the United Nations. [no closing quotation mark as received]

The two sides signed in March a negotiation timetable that foresees the achievement of peace before 31 December 1994. Although certain agreements have been reached, primarily on the issue of human rights, which warranted two texts, negotiations have a five-months' delay regarding established deadlines.

"We would like" to respect the timetable, the Guatemalan president has said, adding "with a real political will the two parties might recover" lost time.

Nevertheless, the president has recognized it is "logical" to think an overall agreement would now be almost impossible before the end of the year. A negotiated solution to the conflict, which began 34 years ago, could perhaps be reached in March according to him.

De Leon Carpio has said he is convinced an agreement on "the Indian people's identity and rights" will be quickly reached. The issue will be discussed by the guerrilla group and government delegations that will meet in Mexico City on 26 November in the presence of the UN mediator, French citizen Jean Arnault.

The point on the "Indian people's rights" should have been signed in June. Five other issues must also be examined, from social and economic problems to the Army's role in a democratic society.

Asked about problems in the negotiation process, the president has said: "This is not the time to lay blame. We all are responsible, the United Nations and both parties."

De Leon, a former human rights ombudsman who rose to power through a chance in June 1993 following the failure of President Jorge Serrano's self-inflicted coup, has said "political stability" has been restored during his administration.

"I was able to strengthen formal democracy, but true democracy has yet to be achieved," the president said, adamantly rejecting the two most frequent complaints about him: that he is manipulated by the military and that he has failed to stop human rights violations.

"Military power is subject to civilian power," he has said, recalling that he had not hesitated to change the

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Army leadership. The new military leaders are "aware" of their role in a democratic society according to him.

"There is no possibility of a military coup attempt" now, he has said, adding there has not been "the minimum interference or even suggestion" from the Army since the beginning of his term, except in its corresponding area, meaning defense.

He has termed as "lies" the reports, mainly from the Catholic Church, on the large number of human rights violations, missing people, or summary executions.

The president has considered "very positive" the installation of the UN Mission for Guatemala (MINUGUA, which will have approximately 300 individuals) on 28 November. "All doors will be open" to it, he has said.

De Leon Carpio has said: "There are still problems, because we have a tradition of human rights violations throughout Guatemala's history, a culture of terror, a culture of death, and a culture of impunity that we are trying to fight." That fight "is not easy," the Guatemalan president has concluded.

Nicaragua

Cuban Officials Arrive To Discuss Property Dispute

PA2411183594 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Nov 94

[Report by Nidia Ruiz; from the "National Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Cuban Government delegation has discreetly arrived in Nicaragua seeking a solution to the ownership dispute over the Cuban Embassy in Managua.

Vice Foreign Minister Benigno Perez is heading the Cuban delegation, which will try to find a friendly solution to the ownership conflict involving the building occupied by the Cuban Embassy in Las Colinas suburb.

The building is being claimed by Azucena Castillo, a Nicaraguan citizen.

The vice foreign minister did not want to discuss his proposals with the media. He will meet with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal tomorrow at 1000.

The Cuban Embassy acquired the building through Law 85, which legalized the possession of properties by persons to whom properties had been assigned prior to 25 November 1990.

The Cuban Embassy voluntarily subjected itself to the legal procedures of the Office for Territorial Organization. This offer was declared immaterial. Later Miss Castillo filed a suit in a Managua Court, and a justice ordered the return of the building.

[Begin Justice Encarnacion Castaneda recording] The ruling states: The real estate must be returned to the Nicaraguan state, represented by the Attorney General's Office. Now the Attorney General's Office is demanding that the ruling be enforced. [end recording]

The Nicaraguan Government has insisted that in keeping with international treaties, persons who enjoy privileges and immunity must respect the laws and regulations of the host country.

[Begin Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais recording] We trust that the Cuban Foreign Ministry will be able to adopt the necessary measures and settle this matter as soon as possible because we, as a country proud of our independence and sovereignty, are concerned and even upset when another country does not respect our laws. [end recording]

Perhaps a solution will be found during the first meeting tomorrow.

Talks Held on Ownership of Embassy Building

PA2511024494 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Nov 94

[Report by Erika Ramirez; from the "National Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cuban and Nicaraguan delegations have ended their first round of talks on the ownership of the Cuban Embassy building in Nicaragua. They are on a good path even though final results were not released.

Lawyers for the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry and the Cuban Government will reach a negotiated solution, possibly tomorrow, on the case of the Cuban Embassy building. No official would release any information:

[Begin recording] [Deputy Cuban Foreign Minister Benigno Perez] I believe the governments of Nicaragua and Cuba will reach an agreement soon.

[Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal] I am unable to say at this moment what was negotiated for obvious reasons you already know, but the talks are going well; they are moving along, and there is a spirit of cordiality to solve the problem. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal has mentioned the possibility of rising tensions over the next few days in Nicaragua with the Republican victory in the U.S. Congress and a possible offensive Jesse Helms could begin against Nicaragua:

[Begin Leal recording] Certain tensions are expected. What could happen? If Senator Helms begins having a negative impact on payments of U.S. aid to Nicaragua, this act will cause domestic tension, because it will cause economic harm to the Nicaraguan people, and, obviously, this move will cause tension. [end recording]

Leal left for El Salvador tonight where area foreign ministers will study the presidents' statements at the hemispheric summit and the plan of action.

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Panama

President Regrets Summit's Lack of Specific Agenda

PA2311195194 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2113 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Panama City, 22 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares today regretted the fact that the Summit of the Americas, which has been convened by U.S. President Bill Clinton to take place in Miami on 9-11 December, has an agenda that is too open and not very specific.

"Unfortunately, the Miami summit has an agenda that is too open. We would have preferred a more specific agenda," Perez Balladares said in statements to the media.

The head of state, who will lead the Panamanian delegation scheduled to attend the Miami meeting, said, however, that Panama will present proposals "that coincide" very much with the ones to be presented by the member-nations of the Rio Group. The Rio Group comprises Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and a Central American and a Caribbean representative.

The Panamanian president added that the Panamanian delegation will even include "some" of the ideas Perez Balladares discussed with Mexican President-elect Ernesto Zedillo at the meeting they held in Panama City last weekend. Perez Balladares and Zedillo stated their common interest in discussing the problem of drug trafficking at the Summit of the Americas.

Both heads of state also expressed their concerns over serious problems related to drug trafficking, and they decided to continue talking about the topic to present a common position at the inter-American summit. Likewise, they decided to fulfill the agreements the two countries have signed in this matter and to coordinate actions against this crime.

The summit's agenda will include basic topics such as democracy, economic development, social development, and environmental protection. In addition to Perez Balladares, the Panamanian delegation will include Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo and Legislative Assembly President Balbina Herrera.

The proposal Panama will present at the Summit of the Americas has not yet been officially released. It is being drafted by a government-appointed multi-institutional commission in which various public and private institutions are participating. The inclusion in the proposal of other topics, such as Panama's admission into NAFTA and GATT, has not been ruled out.

A source close to the commission said the commission members are currently studying the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action, which the United States, as the summit's host country, has presented to the 34 nations that will attend the summit. Cuba is the exeception in the hemisphere, because it has not been invited.

The Panamanian foreign minister said the Miami summit is of special importance because the heads of state from all of the countries in the Americas will be there, and this is why Panama will go there with a united position with the rest of the participating countries.

Government To Open Diplomatic Offices in Canada, Cuba

PA2411032894 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Nov 94 p 44

[Report by Esteban Huertas G.]

[FBIS Translated Text] Manuel de la Hoz, president of the Legislative Assembly Budget Commission, said yesterday Panama will open for the first time diplomatic offices in Canada in January 1995.

The Panamanian delegation will be accredited in Ottawa, the Canadian capital. The Panamanian Embassy in Cuba will also be reopened.

De la Hoz said the Assembly commission has recommended a new budget for the Foreign Ministry for the 1995 fiscal period following a donation for 2 million balboas by China for the exclusive use of the Foreign Ministry.

According to de la Hoz, the financial aid will enable the opening of new embassies in Canada and other strategic areas the country needs to promote itself abroad.

De la Hoz added the Foreign Ministry initiative is worthy, because its budget will increase 22 million balboas, given that 21.9 million balboas had been requested and the Planning Ministry recommended 20 million balboas.

The authorities believe the Foreign Ministry budget allows an effective work on behalf of the country, de la Hoz said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Omar Jaen Suarez has said the appointments of ambassadors and diplomatic and consular personnel are being made ahead, and the placet for the appointment of Panamanian representatives abroad is expected before the end of the year.

"Twenty-two ambassadors have already received the placet thus far, leaving only five diplomats waiting to be approved in the respective countries," Jaen Suarez has said.

Panamanian foreign policy will seek to promote exports and foreign investment in our country, Jaen Suarez has said.

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Argentina

Menem Remark on Golan Termed 'Translation Error'

PY2411005?94 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2314 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Nov (NA)—Media Secretary Guillermo Seita this afternoon clarified that a remark made by President Carlos Menem that referred to a solution to the dispute between Israel and Syria over the Golan Heights was due to "a translation error."

Seita visited the press room of Government House to make the clarification after receiving instructions by telephone from Menem directly from the plane that is bringing him back to Buenos Aires.

In truth it was the cables from the international news agencies arriving at Government House, with the denial by Israeli Foreign Minister Shi'mon Peres that he had informed Menem of the "total willingness" ["disposicion total"] of his country to return that territory, that generated the nervous movements and consultations within the Media Secretariat.

Seita read before the journalists the textual paragraph of the shorthand version of Menem's Damascus news conference that was disseminated by the government.

In the shorthand version, Menem maintains that he told the Syrian president about "Israel's willingness" ["la disposicion de Israel"] to return the occupied territories, although Seita emphasized "he never used the word totally [totalmente]," which provoked Peres' denial.

"It was all due to an error in the translation" of the president's words, the media secretary said.

Menem Views Syrian Trip, Agent in Lebanon

PY2511110094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1546 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Nov (NA)—President Carlos Menem said today that the remark attributed to him with respect to an alleged Israeli intention to return the entire Golan Heights to Syria could be due to "a translation mistake."

Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, as well as Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, yesterday quickly denied that their country was willing to return the entire strategic zone and reiterated their well-known position with regard to a partial return.

Menem also denied having told his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad that the Jewish state would return the "entire" Golan, saying the mistake must have been caused by "some media source or journalist" who "hastily made a wrong interpretation of what the interpreter said."

Regarding the interpreter, the president said "he has always accompanied me in all my tours of the Middle East and he is a university graduate in the area."

"He is an excellent professional. It might have been due to a translation error, not what the interpreter said," Menem said during the news conference he held this morning upon returning from his official visit to Syria.

The president added that the affair "does not worry him" and offered to give to the journalists who waited for him at the metropolitan airport "all the recordings and all the transcriptions in order to make an evaluation" of all that he said.

With respect to the dialogue he had with the Syrian president, Menem said that "besides talking about the issue of peace in the Middle East" I told him that "the Argentine people expected Syria to condemn the attacks on the Israeli Embassy and the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association]."

Menem admitted to having been "surprised" by the answer because al-Asad, as well as his foreign minister, "told me they condemned the attack immediately."

Menem added that he asked Syrian authorities "to cooperate in the investigation of the attacks and the president directly told me there was no problem."

Menem said that as part of that help, "SIDE's [Secretariat for State Intelligence] number two man (Rodrigo Toranzo) is in Lebanon," accompanied by Syrian officials.

Menem Holds News Conference, Criticizes U.S. Envoy

PY2411181494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1534 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Nov (NA)—President Carlos Menem affirmed today that "if necessary," he will veto the controversial post office bill that the Senate has just passed. Menem also criticized U.S. Ambassador James Cheek for criticizing the Senate's approval of the initiative.

"I have decided to leave the issue exclusively in the hands of Congress," Menem said, repeating his intention to veto the bill regulating the mail market "if necessary." The Chamber of Deputies will begin discussing the bill in a few days.

Menem also criticized U.S. Ambassador Cheek for pointing out that the U.S. Administration will take reprisal measures if the bill is approved, and recommended that the diplomat "not make any type of statements" on the matter.

"We respect him, we know he is working for the Argentine Republic, but we have so much freedom of the press in this country that circumstances like that are possible," the president said. [sentence as received]

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Menem denied Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo's alleged threat to resign during an economic team meeting, adding that the report "is totally whimsical."

Menem also mentioned the issue of telephone rate restructuring that is being sponsored by the Economy Ministry and the companies Telefonica de Argentina and Telecom, assuming that he has the right to decide the issue.

"The president will make a decision and then announce" the measures that will be implemented. "Any pronouncement that does not come from the president does not have any value," Menem stressed.

At another point during the news conference held this morning upon his arrival from Syria, Menem denied that the government ever considered the possibility of paying up to $1.5 million in compensation to the Kelpers to secure their recognition of Argentina's sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands.

"No one spoke about that figure. I do not know where it comes from. What we want is to take firm steps in that direction. We will implement the most adequate policies," Menem said, adding that the criticism against Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella on the issue was "completely politicized."

Menem denied that the PAMI [Comprehensive Medical Assistance Plan] had a deficit, and stressed that the pensioners organization "is working well and is ready to offer all the services included in its statutory regulations."

Menem denied that PAMI "had a deficit," categorically adding: "I believe PAMI chairman (Carlos Alderete); that is why I put him there. He is one of my trusted men. He told me PAMI does not have a deficit and that the agency is operating well."

Bolivia

Minister Dismisses Discussing Zero Option at Summit

PY2311220194 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 18 Nov 94 p A1

[FBIS Translated Text] La Paz, 17 Nov (LOS TIEMPOS)— Social Communications Minister Ernesto Machicao said today that Bolivia will not propose discussing the "Zero Option" issue at the Summit of the Americas in December in Miami. Machicao said Bolivia will not propose a discussion on this issue because this summit will not discuss narcotrafficking issues.

He added: "The Miami summit is a meeting of a different nature. It is not a meeting to discuss narcotrafficking-related issues. It basically strives to consolidate the democratic process and trade among the countries of the region."

Machicao thus denied rumors that if the controversial "Zero Option" was not discussed at the national level, President Sanchez de Lozada would raise it at the Summit of the Americas, which will be held in Miami on 9 and 10 December.

Machicao stated that the president and the cabinet have been working since 8 November on the official Bolivian agenda to be proposed at the Summit of the Americas. He added that this agenda does not include the "Zero Option" or any other issue related to narcotrafficking.

Although the social communications minister refused to discuss the issues to be proposed by Bolivia at the summit, other executive branch officials have implied that Sanchez de Lozada will insist on three basic issues: The strengthening of democracy; economic development; and the implementation of sustainable development.

This final issue is believed to be crucial for Bolivia and the Sanchez de Lozada administration because Bolivia intends to hold an International Summit on Alternative Development in 1996.

Brazil

Cardoso To Adopt Economic Package 1 Jan

PY2411011294 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Nov 94 p 3

[Article by Ilimar Franco]

[FBIS Translated Text] President-elect Fernando Henrique Cardoso is preparing a package of measures that will be adopted on the day of his inauguration on 1 January 1995. These measures are designed to reinforce the Real Plan and to guarantee the economic stabilization process. It is precisely for these two reasons that Cardoso is adamantly trying to appoint Pedro Malan as his finance minister. To persuade Malan, Cardoso has used a strong argument: If Malan refuses, he will have to appoint an outsider to that post. Yet Cardoso does not want this solution because, according to an adviser, "the appointment as finance minister of a strong figure who is an outsider to the team could cause the plan to change course."

The measures Cardoso will adopt on the day of his inauguration are also designed to begin the administrative reform and make specific adjustments in education, health, and agriculture, which he has regarded as priority areas.

The share each party will have in his cabinet is still under discussion. It has already been agreed, however, that the Brazilian Labor Party [PTB] will hold only one post. Senator Jose Eduardo Andrade Vieira (Parana State), who is the PTB president, will be appointed agriculture minister.

The Popular Party [PP], which first declined to nominate its own candidate and then endorsed Cardoso's candidacy, will not receive any ministerial post. Commenting on the

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PP's poor performance in the recent elections, a PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] leader said: "The PP is finished."

The package of measures will also address the issue of the debts of banks owned by the state governments. Cardoso himself announced that his administration will take rigorous action in this area. The transition team has described the situation of the above institutions as explosive. A prominent colleague of Cardoso's said: "if no action is taken, everything will explode by the end of January."

Cardoso's team also confirmed that he will release the names of those who will serve on his cabinet earlier than anticipated. After 10 December, Cardoso will announce the name of the finance minister. He will then announce the names of Planalto Palace officials, and finally the remaining list of ministers and secretaries, so that those chosen may have time to choose their own teams. An adviser to Cardoso has drawn a parallel between the cabinet appointment process and "a chess game."

Editorial: Miami Summit To Be 'Social Event'

PY2311165194 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Nov 94 Section 1 p 2

[Editorial: "A Hollow Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Summit of the Americas called by U.S. President Bill Clinton for 9-11 December in Miami is likely to become just a social event for him and for the attending leaders.

Meetings of this kind are usually unproductive because of the large number of participants. All heads of state and government of the Americas, with the exception of Cuban President Fidel Castro, have been invited to attend.

It is highly unlikely for a meeting with so many participants to yield results, especially considering the diversity of the nations being represented. It seems obvious, for instance, that the problems of a country like Brazil could not be compared to those of Honduras, or Panama.

It is not a question of discriminating between large or small or rich or poor countries, but to note that the urgent needs of some are altogether different from those of others and that it will therefore be difficult for the summit to yield substantive conclusions.

Aside from the peculiar structure of these meetings, the agenda of the Summit of the Americas has been markedly weakened by the specific situation the U.S. host is going through.

First fact: Following his clear defeat in the 8 November election, Clinton has his hands tied with regard to engaging in productive diplomatic and trade negotiations.

Second fact: In light of the above, the U.S. Administration attempted to remove the trade issue—the main subject of interest to the other participants—from the agenda.

Third and decisive fact: In light of the elimination of the "fast track," a legislative mechanism whereby Congress authorizes the executive branch to negotiate trade agreements, any trade negotiation at the summit will have to be limited to declarations of intent.

To achieve only this, the level of representation at the summit of the Americas would appear to be inadequate. Foreign ministers or economy ministers may perhaps engage in more substantive discussions than the heads of government, at least under the circumstances that will be surrounding the Miami summit.

Chile

Insulza Views Support for Joining NAFTA

PY2511001794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2043 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago, 24 Nov (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza today said today that the Mexican and Canadian Governments' support for Chile's membership in NAFTA improves the possibilities for a multilateral agreement with the United States.

Insulza said the position of the two countries, which, with the United States, make up NAFTA, "is quite favorable." These were the first comments made by Insulza after returning today from a tour of four countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The tour was headed by President Eduardo Frei.

A few weeks ago the Mexican and Canadian Governments publicly supported Chile's membership in NAFTA.

Insulza recalled that Chile wants to strengthen trade relations with the two countries and emphasized the importance of their latest support because "this favors a multilateral agreement."

Insulza said, however, the date of Chile's possible entry into NAFTA will not be known until after the conclusion of the Summit of the Americas, which will be held from 9 to 11 December in Miami, and the approval by the U.S. Congress of the Uruguay Round of the GATT.

He added that trying to reach conclusions about what will happen in the immediate future regarding NAFTA would be "hasty" but he said the possibilities for Chile are very good because "it is quite clear that Chile is the next country with which negotiations on NAFTA will be held." "But the terms and the time for negotiations depend a great deal on the two events I mentioned," he said.

Insulza also said the tour by President Eduardo Frei, who returned to Santiago today, was "exceptional."

Frei Asks Brazil To Expel Sentenced 'Terrorists'

PY2411184794 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Eduardo Frei has sent a letter to Brazilian President Itamar Franco asking him to

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order the release of five Chilean terrorists sentenced to 28 years imprisonment in Brazil. According to the Human Rights Commission in Santiago, the five MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Movement] members are charged with being involved in the abduction of a businessman.

President Frei has proposed that the five Chileans—four men and one woman—be expelled from Brazil. The five terrorists—Maria Lidia Merchi, Alejandro Fernandez, Sergio Martin Olivares, Ulises Gallardo, and Hector Ramon Tapia—were arrested in 1989, and their case was discussed two weeks ago in a broadcast for the "Informe Especial" program.

Colombia

Narco-Bill Sent to Chamber; Minister Denounces Move

PA2311193394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Nov 94

[From the "Colombia 1230" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government was ignored at the Chamber of Representatives when it asked deputies to scrap the narco-bill. Instead, the deputies have voted to send the bill to the full chamber for discussion. Nevertheless, the justice minister has ways of preventing the legislation from being approved.

The national government will resort to every possible means to prevent the controversial narco-bill from being debated by the full chamber or being approved by representatives, who, according to the national government, are helping the country's drug traffickers.

[Begin Justice Minister Nestor Humberto Martinez recording] We would be unable, when the time comes, to confiscate assets obtained through criminal activity in this country, because regional judicial procedures would be eliminated. This would throw a cloak of impunity over serious crimes. [end recording]

Colombia is facing a very critical moment, because, according to the prosecutor general and the justice minister, the country, while acting in good faith, was duped when it allowed itself to be influenced by drug traffickers, and this is why there is pressure to approve the narco-bill, which clearly benefits drug traffickers, criminals, and corrupt people.

[Begin Martinez recording] Even in the unlikely case that the Chamber of Representatives would approve the measure in a plenary session, the government would not sign it. It would reject it, because it is unconstitutional. [end recording]

As things stand right now, the national government will ask the Supreme Court to investigate the representatives who have approved the narco-bill to determine if there is any integrity in what they are doing.

President Samper Views Narco-Bill

PA2411040294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0230 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ernesto Samper commented in Cali today on the approval [as heard] of the so-called narco-bill:

[Begin Samper recording] I believe this is a regrettable fact. The government will strongly defend its position at the plenary session of the Chamber of Deputies. We hope not only all the other deputies but also those who voted in favor of this bill will think again about the international price this country will have to pay if this bill is approved. I am certain the plenary session will back the government's position when it appears for consideration. [end recording]

New Envoy Assesses Meetings With Clinton, Brown

PA2311161394 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Carlos Lleras de la Fuente, new ambassador to the United States, in Washington, by News Director Dario Arizmendi and reporter Javier Ayala at the Emisoras Caracol Studios in Santa Fe de Bogota; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Arizmendi] Carlos Lleras de la Fuente, Colombia's ambassador to the United States, presented his credentials on Monday. There were the usual speeches—one by the ambassador, and one by President Bill Clinton. Our new ambassador met privately with President Clinton for a few minutes after the ceremony. Good morning, Mr. Ambassador Carlos Lleras de la Fuente.

[Lleras] Good morning. How are you?

[Arizmendi] What did you say in your speech, Mr. Lleras de la Fuente?

[Lleras] I summarized the current situation of our relations with the United States and the main issues still pending. I discussed the war against drug trafficking, human rights, and the problems hampering trade between the two countries, such as the investigations regarding imports of Colombian flowers.

In general, I outlined the need for clearer policies and a smoother relationship—one void of any kind of interference which will allow us to face, in full agreement, the problems and challenges the future holds in store. Therefore, as you can see, this was a good opportunity to summarize the overall situation.

President Clinton responded with a very kind and empathetic speech, acknowledging all of the country's efforts to combat drug trafficking. He recognized the need to continue working under the terms of current agreements and to increase our efforts, as well as the importance of pressing on with the struggle against corruption and the

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defense of human rights. He also recognized the leading role Colombia plays in international trade, particularly in light of the fact that Colombia is becoming one of Latin America's largest purchasers and importers of U.S. goods.

[Arizmendi] Ambassador Carlos Lleras de la Fuente, you say you addressed our relations and pending issues regarding drug trafficking, human rights, trade, and, in general, the need for a smoother relationship and clearer policies. What is still pending regarding drug trafficking disputes with the United States?

[Lleras] Fortunately, I believe the problem has improved. We have a clear agreement on the need to continue working together on this difficult issue and to do so in the best way possible. The United States is still very determined to continue its policy of controlling drug trafficking within the countries where drugs are produced. Lee Brown, the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, explained, for example, how they want to reallocate much of the money currently used to control trafficking through the Caribbean to assist many of the producer countries, such as Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and others.

[Ayala] Mr. Ambassador, would you invite to Colombia the DEA director, Senator Jesse Helms, or other congressional leaders who are critical of Colombia?

[Lleras] Why yes. I would very much like to do that. I met with DEA Director Constantine last week. We had an interesting chat about drug control and the problems that have affected our countries for so long, and it is very likely he will visit Colombia early next year.

This would be wonderful, because I believe you can get a better idea of the situation by traveling to the country itself than you can here, where the picture is quite distorted. I hope we can do the same with members of Congress and other notable figures to provide them with a first-hand look at the country's reality.

[Arizmendi] Is the Colombian Embassy in Washington planning to prepare a formal and official meeting between President Ernesto Samper and U.S. President Bill Clinton in the near future?

[Lleras] Oh, yes. I mentioned this to the President during the credentials ceremony. We are very interested in having the two leaders get together with the common goal of carefully examining our relations and the problems that await us in the future. I expect they will be able to talk for a while at the Summit of the Americas in Miami, and I hope that next year they can have a more private and extensive meeting on more specific issues.

[Arizmendi] Is the issue of the so-called narcocassettes over and done with for the U.S. Government?

[Lleras] Completely. As a matter of fact, there was a statement just three days ago by drug czar Lee Brown, who once again said Colombia is by no means a narcodemocracy, as was alleged. As I said, President Clinton expressly acknowledged Colombia's efforts and sacrifice in the war against drug trafficking during his speech at the ceremony. Therefore, I have found a warm atmosphere here, a feeling of respect for the country, and, of course, the hope that we will continue our all-out war against drug trafficking.

Ecuador

Strikes Protesting Fuel Price Hikes Begin

PA2311143794 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Nov 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The country is facing a series of strikes that are disrupting the peace and tranquillity that has prevailed in the country. Teachers belonging to the UNE [National Union of Teachers], urban bus drivers, and health workers have all announced strategic strikes. The UNE is demanding the reinstatement of those teachers who have been dismissed, the drivers are demanding a suspension of the increase in diesel prices, and health workers are demanding a wage increase. The government is preparing to hold separate negotiations with each of these important sectors.

The UNE is insisting on a work stoppage because of disagreements with the government. The UNE professors announced a 48-hour strike to protest the rise in diesel prices, the dismissal of teachers, and the [word indistinct] of the Religious Education Law, among other things. Yesterday the teachers, after being prevented from entering the Government Palace to speak with Vice President Alberto Dahik, proceeded to vandalize the Finance Ministry Building.

Urban bus drivers from Pichincha marched to reject the increase in diesel prices. The drivers blocked traffic in downtown Quito for several hours. They were subsequently received by acting Government Minister Roberto Paissailague, whom they advised of their refusal to accept the government decision.

Health workers, meanwhile, remain on strike. Until now there has been no rapprochement between the health minister and the workers to break the deadlock. The minister even asked the workers to stop dreaming—a statement that clearly referred to the strikers' supposedly exaggerated demands.

Within the next few hours the government will announce compensation measures for those productive sectors adversely affected by the diesel price increase. The government pointed out that the measures are designed to normalize production in the banana, fishing, and shrimping industries suffering from the exaggerated increase in fuel prices.

Political sectors continue to file lawsuits at the Court of Constitutional Guarantees questioning the constitutionality of the rise in diesel prices. Meanwhile, acting President Alberto Dahik is maintaining his position, affirming that the diesel price hikes will remain in place. In his

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deposition at the Court of Constitutional Guarantees, Dahik defended the lawfulness of the executive decree which reformed the law on fuel prices, and he said the move is not a new tax but, rather, a regulation of prices that was implemented for a state commodity.

[Later in the same "Voz Andes Newscast," Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish broadcasts a one-minute, announcer-read report that says residents from various municipalities in Guayas Province blocked roads for 24 hours on 22 November to support the strike announced in El Empalme Municipality. The report adds: "The closing of roads led to the suspension of intercity public transportation." The report concludes with the announcer stressing that the strike in Guayas Province is scheduled to last no more than 24 hours]

Teachers, Health Workers End Strikes

PA2411191794 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Nov 94

[From the "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Union of Teachers [UNE] has decided to lift the nationwide strike it began on Tuesday after reaching an agreement with the education minister, who promised to reinstate in December the 62 teaching jobs that had been eliminated

In Guayaquil, the UNE professors ended their strike amid street disturbances and demonstrations. Downtown Guayaquil was totally blocked, which led to a traffic jam. The demonstrators hurled stones and sticks at the Finance Ministry and broke many windows.

The health workers' strike will end in a few hours following talks between the health minister and workers. The minister is willing to accept the five requests made by the workers, including a 10-percent salary hike.

Peru

Fujimori Defends Self-Coup, Views 'Terrorism'

PY2311152694 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 Nov 94 pp 2-3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Directors of important Ibero-American newspapers yesterday held a wide-ranging and frank talk with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori at Government Palace as part of the activities scheduled for these directors in the country within the framework of the second stage of the great "Periolibros" editorial project. [passage omitted]

The Peruvian president broadly answered all questions and concerns posed by the foreign reporters, including those with which he does not feel very comfortable.

On the self-coup issue, he said that the abnormal situation that prevailed two years ago was something "not included in my strategy," and that "it was precipitated," forcing him to adopt measures, familiar to all, "to prevent chaos and disorder."

Fujimori told them that during those months, the judicial and legislative branches were not performing in an effective manner, thwarting, in many cases, the actions of the executive branch, and leading, "should this pace have continued," directly to chaos.

In this context, he said, when the issuance of a new constitution was proposed, the presidential reelection issue was brought up, so that the citizens, rather than "a group of congressmen," could make a decision on the matter.

Almost thinking aloud, the president referred to the theory that, contrary to what is said, it is the alternation in government that caused the debacle and underdevelopment.

"Wasn't, perhaps, the succession of government actually the give and take between one government and another? They did not seek the country's development, but they used to alternate in government to share the benefits of power," he said.

To justify the presidential reelection, he asked them to observe the electoral processes in developed countries, where there is long-term planning and where there is, above all, continuity in government plans and development projects.

He then argued further in favor of his decision to include the presidential reelection issue immediately within the Peruvian constitution, and said: "If Alan Garcia and Fernando Belaunde had an opportunity to run for reelection, they would not be successful." [passage omitted]

During the meeting with the president, each participant asked for his opinion on a subject related to their country. Thus, Ana Maria Campero, of the Bolivian newspaper PRESENCIA, asked about the binational project in Ilo; Arleen Rodriguez about the possibility of investing Peruvian capital in Cuba; and Jorge Fernandez about Peruvian-Chilean relations.

On the first question, Fujimori said that the southern Pacific zone and the ports built there have enormous potential in the near future.

It is for this reason that the government has decided to conclude the Ilo-Desaguadero integration highway to connect the southern Bolivian and Brazilian markets with the port of Ilo toward the Pacific basin.

Concerning Peruvian-Chilean relations, he said that integration processes between the two nations are already under way on their respective borders, "independently of any government desire."

He said that integration of the peoples is a reality that complies with concrete regional needs. He recalled also that another form of integration is taking place through the

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privatization of Peruvian public companies, a process in which Chilean capital is actively participating.

Concerning the possibility of making investments in Cuba, the Peruvian president said that for the time being there is no such possibility.

Ricardo Badia, representative of the Argentine newspaper PAGINA/12, asked whether the recent visit to our country by President Carlos Saul Menem meant the initial "lifting of the international isolation in which Peru has been immersed.

Fujimori answered that in fact, Peru was isolated, but not now; it was isolated 13 years ago, when insane terrorism emerged.

He explained that with the country in financial ruin and facing the scourge of two terrorist groups, it was impossible to think about a successful government.

"How can we say that a country is walking on the right path when the palace is under mortar fire?" the president asked. He added: "I would say that with this government the isolation has ended."

He also discussed the dynamic cultural-educational policy which will begin at university levels now, with special emphasis on the reorganization of the art colleges in Lima, Ayacucho, Cusco, and other towns in the interior of the country.

Concerning tourism policy, he said that once the country has been pacified and hyperinflation has been defeated, we will be able to think about strengthening this industry, which is so important to the generating of foreign currency in other countries of the region.

His government's goal for next year is to succeed in attracting 500,000 visitors, who, when "well treated and served," will become the best sources to advertise the new image of Peru, the president concluded. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Broad Front Candidate Closes Electoral Campaign

PY2511025194 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1644 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Montevideo, 24 Nov (TELAM-SNI)—Addressing a crowd on eastern 18 de Julio Avenue, Broad Front presidential candidate Tabare Vazquez last night closed his electoral campaign in Montevideo, asking Blanco Party and Colorado Party citizens to vote for him.

According to Vazquez, 100,000 people, or 80,000 people, according to some media estimates, met in the Uruguayan capital to support a coalition in which communists, socialists, and Tupamaros coexist.

Undoubtedly, this was the most important rally of the current electoral campaign, which, according to the polls, is marked by a tie among Blanco Party, Colorado Party, and Broad Front candidates.

As the crowd was shouting: "And you can see, and you can see, the president is Tabare," Vazquez occupied the rostrum where he was met by his running mate, former National Party leader Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Montevideo mayoral candidate Mariano Arana, Broad Front founder General Liber Seregni, and the Broad Front leadership.

Vazquez began his speech by quoting a character of the Inodoro Pereyra comic strip devised by Argentine cartoonist Roberto Fontanarrosa. "Watch out! Mendieta," said Vazquez when he saw the crowd cheering him.

Vazquez immediately added that the rally represented, "without the slightest doubt, the threshold of the 27 November victory."

Vazquez added: "There are only 96 days before we hold the national government as of 1 March." He emphasized that the Broad Front "not only will keep the Montevideo mayoralty, but will also win the Canelones (the second most populated Uruguayan department) mayoralty."

Vazquez stressed that the left coalition "has deep roots," including "Blanco Party men and women, longstanding National Party members," as well as "Colorado Party men and women."

Vazquez noted that these Colorado Party members want, like Jose Battle y Ordonez, "the poor to be less poor, and the rich to be less rich."

Vazquez pointed out that the Broad Front includes "the best Christian tradition," noting that Jesus Christ "was the man who surrendered his life on a cross for the poor."

The Broad Front presidential candidate emphasized that he will become the president of all Uruguayans just as he became the mayor of all Montevideo residents.

Referring to the National Party and Colorado Party candidates, Vazquez asked: "If they have changed nothing over the past 40 years, will they change anything now?"

Vazquez confirmed his commitment to implement "a popular, democratic, and participative government for all Uruguayans, without any discrimination."

Blanco Party Candidate Closes Campaign

PY2511013594 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1652 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Montevideo, 24 Nov (TELAM-SNI)—National (or Blanco) Party presidential candidate Alberto Volonte last night closed his electoral campaign, calling on all Uruguayans to achieve unity and committing himself to encouraging the great social reforms required by our country.

During a rally at Independence Square in the Uruguayan capital, Volonte noted: "On 27 November Uruguay's future for the next 50 years will be at stake." According to the sponsors of the rally, about 25,000 people were present. According to the journalists, however, no more than 10,000 people were present.

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Joined by his running mate, Alvaro Ramos, and by Carlos Cat, the National Party's Montevideo mayoral candidate, the National Party presidential candidate stressed: "People are worried about wiping out inflation and quite likely it will be wiped out."

Volonte emphasized that he will implement the great social reforms hoped for by Uruguay, including education, social security, and public security.

Volonte called for achieving "national unity." He noted that the first task that he will tackle, if he is elected, "will involve calling on everyone, without any exceptions, within the society and the political parties."

Volonte indicated that this call "will not be limited to the approval of his ideas, but will be aimed at allowing the various parties to contribute with their own ideas because all of them must feel that they are playing a key role."

The Blanco Party candidate pointed out that the country will have to deal with the family issue, expressing that "the society is built on the family because families are fundamental."

According to all the polls on voter preferences, Volonte, former President Julio Maria Sanguinetti from the Colorado Party, and Broad Front leader Tabare Vazquez are the three presidential candidates with the greatest chances of winning the 27 November general elections.

Volonte is heading the National Party primaries, closely followed by Juan Andres Ramirez, the Herreraist faction candidate. President Luis Alberto Lacalle is an Herreraist faction member.

Ramirez will close his campaign tonight with a rally in Montevideo. He will be the last candidate to conclude his electoral tour a few hours before the implementation of a two-day "propaganda ban" preceding the elections.

Venezuela

Foreign Minister: Miami Summit Not Doomed to Fail

PA2311150394 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2341 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Caracas, 21 Nov (DPA)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas today said the Summit of the Americas, which will be held in Miami on 9-11 December, is not doomed to failure as has been claimed lately.

At a news conference in Caracas, Burelli predicted the Miami meeting "will reflect the changes currently taking place in the world," adding, "the various assessments each Latin American country has conducted are near completion and will be incorporated into the summit's agenda."

Asked about the Miami summit's possible discussion of Cuba—a country that was excluded by the host nation—the foreign minister replied: "We do not have any indication whatsoever that this topic will be addressed. From what we have seen of the topics to date, this issue has not been mentioned at all."

He added that the agenda includes two sweeping categories—politics and economics. He added: "The other topics, such as social and ethical issues, will depend on these categories. All of the countries have listed the topics in which they have specific interest. Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera is interested in social issues. The Venezuelan president is not the only one. This concern is also spreading among all of the chiefs of state."

Burelli stressed, "The real drama of our times comprises the imbalances in Latin American society engendered by rural flight and the influx of immigrants looking for a better life. This creates many more opportunities for drug trafficking, crimes against property and life, the deterioration of the quality of life, the disintegration of the family, the lack of housing, and everything else generated by social neglect, because when you get to the bottom of it all, everything is social."

Suriname

Police Disband Protests Over Price Increases

PA2411044494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0208 GMT 24 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Paramaribo, 23 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Police sources have disclosed that a group of 500 protesters has been disbanded by Surinamese police when they attempted to protest an increase in the price of food.

The sources have stated the protesters, mostly students, had concentrated in a strategic spot in this capital city to begin a protest march opposing an increase in the price of bread and other basic staples.

The Surinamese Government authorized last week a 400-percent increase in the price of bread and three other staples used mostly by the lower income groups. The decision caused protests from the country's various social groups.

The police immediately implemented security measures to counter the numerous protests that have been taking place during the past two days and to prevent the looting of commercial establishments instigated yesterday by nearly 4,000 civilians.

International observers believe the situation in this African nation [as received] became even more complicated as a result of the increase in the cost of several basic staples due to the possible devaluation of the official currency.

The Surinamese guilder, valued at 55 guilders per U.S. dollar at the beginning of 1994, devalued to 413 per U.S. dollar during November. That currency even underwent drastic devaluation on the black market when it devalued from 95 to 515 guilders per U.S. dollar.

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